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Village (Special report)

STRIVING TOWARDS DEVELOPED, ATTRACTIVE AND VIABLE VILLAGES

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- Three thousand villages have been chosen to participate in the Gerakan Desa Wawasan (GDW), a programme aimed at modernising villages which will become the model of a developed, attractive and viable area.

GDW will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a village in Perak in July.

"The programme will adopt the `BUS' (bottom up strategy) where ideas and action come from the local community," said a senior official from the Community Development Division (Kemas) of the Ministry of Rural Development.

The idea for the programme was mooted by the Prime Minister in line with his vision to see all Malaysians, in the towns and rural areas, work together in turning Malaysia into a developed nation.

"Its main objective is to bring prosperity and to enhance the quality of life for the rural folks. They must achieve this themselves while the government will guide them with all the planning and in changing their attitude.

"Hence, the success and failure of this programme is entirely up to the village community itself," said the official.

GDW concept is based on the realisation and development towards the transformation in thinking and the attitudes of the rural community and its leadership.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, in explaining the programme, said the GDW is not just confined to providing the basic infrastructure but it is based on quality, productivity, income as well as nurturing the social thinking of the rural populace.

The Kemas official said all the villages chosen to participate in the GDW programme were required to provide their own programmes of activities to ensure its success.

Marks will be given for various aspects such as utilisation of local resources, level of technology, production quality, polluted area, level of knowledge in industrial management and income from industry.

The villages chosen for the GDW programme are those with potential for development and many of them already have the basic amenities such as water and electricity.

Among the villages to be developed this year are Kampung Ulu Cepor (Ipoh, Perak), Kampung Belut (Sungai Siput, Perak), Kampung Pendi (Parit, Perak), Kampung Darat (Kangkung, Kedah), Kampung Tawar (Kuala Ketil, Kedah), Kampung Kuala Sin (Bukit Selambau, Kedah), Kampung Gentam (Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan), Kampung Ulu Ladang (Gemau, Negeri Sembilan) and Kampung Repah (Tampin, Negeri Sembilan).

In implementing the GDW, the Community Development Division (KEMAS) will act as the agent in motivating the rural community by guiding the Village Development and Security Committee (JKKK) until they are able to be self-reliant.

Landscaping programmes and the creation of recreation parks in main residential areas would be carried out on a gotong-royong basis to beautify the areas.

The GDW programme will also involve the private sector in developing the rural economy, said the official. -- BERNAMA

DAB AO

