

07 AUG 1997

Tajol

GOVT APPROVES RM 1 MILLION FOR RELA MEMBERS

PASIR PUTEH, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- The government has approved RM 1 million as honorarium for members of the people's volunteer corps (Rela).

It would be distributed among 240,000 Rela members as a token of appreciation for their commitment and sacrifice, said Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

The sum was recently approved by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Home Minister.

"We have not decided on the form of payment but I have already directed Rela director-general Mohd Hussain Shafie to handle the payment process," Tajol Rosli said.

He told reporters this after opening a Rela get-together in Gong Tinggi near here last night where he presented certificates and firearms to corps members in Kelantan.

Tajol Rosli said the ministry would lobby for Rela allocations to be included into the national budget so that a regular allowance could be given to its members.

He urged more women and professionals to join Rela, saying that scheduled training was being drawn up for members to acquire skills in helping the government curb illegal entry of drugs and foreigners, and serve as the country's "eyes and ears".-- BERNAMA

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