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MELAKA HOPES TO ERADICATE HARDCORE POVERTY BY 2001

MELAKA, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Abject poverty in Melaka can be completely eradicated by 2001, Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said today.

He said there were now only 149 hardcore poor families in the state and efforts were underway to raise their standard of living.

"I'm confident that by the year 2001, Melaka will succeed in achieving its zero-hardcore poor target," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the state executive council.

Mohamed Ali said the meeting decided that all exco members must declare their assets by the end of January.

The declaration forms should be submitted to him first before being sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Mohamed Ali said the state government also decided that there be a single Hari Raya Aidil Fitri celebration by government departments, agencies and subsidiaries of the state government to save time and money.

"We no longer want every department, agency and subsidiary to hold separate celebrations...this time we will coordinate things and there will be one single celebration at the Seri Negeri Banquet Hall," he added.

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