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Abdullah-Assistance

22,000 TO GET RM250 A MONTH ASSISTANCE FROM FELDA, RISDA

PUTRAJAYA, June 21 (Bernama) -- Some 22,000 people in the hard-core poor group are to get financial assistance of RM250 a month from Felda and Risda, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Those getting the assistance are in the non-productive group such as the disabled and aged, he said.

"The agencies concerned will meet to smoothen its implementation," he said after chairing the Ministerial Task Force meeting on improving implementation of development projects in rural areas at the new Prime Minister's Department (JPM) complex here today.

This is the first meeting held in the National Operations Room on the first floor of the building.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah both officially started work today in their new offices in the JPM complex.

Abdullah said the two agencies were picked to give out the assistance as both were closely associated with those in the low income group and the poor in the country.

The numbers of those eligible to receive the financial assistance would be shared by Felda and Risda, he said.

He said the RM250 a month to each recipient was determined as reasonable.

He said the recipients would also be provided training to produce handicraft so as to supplement their income.

"They have been identified and registered," Abdullah said.

There are 67,300 people in the hard-core poor group in Malaysia with Kelantan having the highest number at 16,800.

-- BERNAMA

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