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Negara-Payment

SPECIAL PAYMENT ENSURES EVERY SINGLE SEN BENEFITS THE PEOPLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- The Federal government's special payment to Terengganu is not channelled through the state government to ensure every single sen goes to the people and not for political purposes, said Parliamentary Secretary to the Finance Ministry Hashim Ismail.

He said the Federal Development Department was established to handle the channelling of the special payment in a transparent manner and for the benefit of the people irrespective of their political inclinations.

Replying to Senator Rosli Mat Hassan in the Dewan Negara today, he said the ruling party in Terengganu, which protested against the direct disbursement of the special payment, was only trying to confuse the people.

Hashim said the party was trying to incite the people in Terengganu to go against the Federal government by claiming their rights had been denied when the special payment was channelled directly to the people.

Senator Rosli had said banners badmouthing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Federal government and Umno had been put up all over the state to protest the direct disbursement of the special payment.

Hashim said the special payment, based on a noble and apolitical concept, will ensure everyone in Terengganu benefits.

He said the Federal Development Department has clear guidelines on disbursing the fund through various programmes including that for the poor, education, agriculture, rural development and entrepreneur development.

"This makes the special payment a special assistance programme for everyone in Terengganu and that no one will be sidelined due to their political leanings," he said.

Replying to Senator Datuk Kasim Yusop, Hashim said the Federal government has no plan to make similar special payments to other states.

As for grants to the Kelantan state government as raised by Senator Siti Zailah Mohamed Yusof, he said the last payment made was on Sept 15 this year amounting to RM54.96 million and a balance of RM25.49 million due will be paid soon.

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