

29/09/2001

Increased allowances to be paid in three months

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The 110,980 people eligible for the Government's RM80 million allocation under the National Unity and Social Development Ministry's stimulus package will receive their increased allowances in three months.

At present, senior citizens get RM100 each, orphans and poor children RM250; handicapped RM100 and poor families RM250. Grants to help the poor to set up small businesses is RM2,000 and those affected by natural disasters also get RM2,000.

The allowances will be doubled.

Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the ministry will ensure that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to efficiently help the needy is followed.

Siti Zaharah said this at a Press conference on programmes being planned for the National Senior Citizens' Day which falls on Oct 1.

She said the Government had set aside RM8 million for the establishment of 19 day care centres for the aged.

She said senior citizens above 60 represented 6.4 per cent of the country's 21 million population.

Meanwhile, the United Nations' Special Session on Children in New York, that was scheduled for Sept 19, has been postponed to next year. The Ministry was to have sent a delegation.

(END)