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Mustapa-Smallholders

RM100 MILLION FOR RUBBER SMALLHOLDERS - MUSTAPA

TANAH MERAH, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- The federal government is distributing RM100 million to all rubber smallholders in the country to ease their hardship, Economic Action Council Executive Director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said.

"A total of RM20 million is allocated to rubber smallholders in Kelantan...in a few days we will give it to them," he told reporters at his Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house held at his residence in Darul Falah, Kemahang, here today.

Mustapa, who is also the state Umno Liaison Committee chairman said Kelantan received the highest allocation compared to other states.

With this amount and a rise in rubber price to RM2.50 per kilogramme, he hoped the living standards of smallholders would improve.

The large allocation to Kelantan clearly proves the federal government had not ignored the state even though it is controlled by Pas, Mustapa said.

"We thank Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's concern about the people in this state, although Kelantan is ruled by the opposition."

He added that Kelantan also received RM15 million yearly from the Social Welfare Department -- the highest amount compared to other states.

The financial aid is given to single mothers, disabled people and senior citizens.

He said the various federal government development programmes and money remitted by the Kelantan people living outside the state helps to support its economy.

-- BERNAMA

BD VP