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ECONOMIC PACKAGE TO BENEFIT BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURS

KOTA BAHARU, May 22 (Bernama) -- The Entrepreneur Development Ministry has welcomed the RM1.2 billion allocated to it under the economic stimulus package as this will help Bumiputera entrepreneurs increase their economic activities.

Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said the number of Bumiputera entrepreneurs was currently small but the package would afford more funds to be allocated to small businessmen in the community.

"The additional RM200 million to the Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (Tekun) will allow loans for more entrepreneurs and this will surely motivate economic activity at the grassroot level."

He said this to reporters after attending a dinner and dialogue session organised by the Kelantan-branch of the Malay Traders and Entrepreneurs Association (Perdasama) here last night.

However, he said Bumiputera entrepreneurs should not be too dependent on the government and they should be brave and progressive enough to compete and be successful.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad unveiled the RM7.3 billion economic stimulus package to help Malaysians overcome the impact on the economy as a result of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, the Iraq war and lethargic world economic conditions.

The government allocated an additional RM200 million to Tekun, RM600 million to the Small and Medium Industries (SMI) Fund and RM400 million to the New Entrepreneurial Fund.

-- BERNAMA  
MNR RAR EMK