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Pests

KELANTAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES GET FUNDS FOR PEST CONTROL

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- All 11 local authorities in Kelantan today received a federal allocation of RM200,000 each for implementing pest- and vector-control programmes.

Kelantan Federal Development Department Director Datuk Ramli Abdul Halim said the allocation was extended to the 10 district councils and a municipal council through the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

"The allocation is proof of the federal government's seriousness in helping local authorities in Kelantan, a state which happens to be hit by dengue fever," he said when handing over the allocation at his office here.

Ramli said the Kelantan government would be hard-pressed to tackle the problem without federal help, and he urged local authorities to destroy pests which could pose health problems.

Asked to comment on federal allocations to help poor students, he said the federal government had never neglected students in states under opposition rule.

More than 90,000 poor students in Kelantan are eligible for the special allocation, which would be presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during his visit here on Thursday, he said.

Ramli said the aid of RM120 per student would be given to the schoolchildren in stages.

The aid, from the Poor Students' Trust Fund, is for buying school uniforms and equipment.

The Education Ministry recently announced that the federal government had allocated RM85 million for 700,000 primary school pupils from families earning less than RM500 a month.

-- BERNAMA

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