

26 JUN 2003

Mustapa-Loan

MALAYSIA AMONG FEW COUNTRIES GIVING LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSMEN

RANTAU PANJANG, June 26 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian government is among the few countries that give special emphasis to small businessmen who comprise mainly Bumiputeras through substantial allocations.

National Economic Action Council (NEAC) Executive Director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said the federal government, through the New Economic Stimulus Package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month, allocated RM2,200 million to assist thousands of small businessmen nationwide who might be jeopardised by the world economic crisis.

"The government provides so much allocation and easy loans to small businessmen with the cooperation of the banks and financial institutions," he told reporters, here today.

Earlier, Mustapa officially closed the Micro Credit Scheme briefing organised by Bank Pertanian Malaysia and Bank Simpanan Nasional for about 1,000 small businessmen operating at the Rantau Panjang Duty Free Complex, here.

He said the easy loans of between RM5,000 and RM20,000 did not require the businessmen to provide collateral or guarantors, but they only needed to become members of specified business associations.

"Too many conditions were imposed to obtain loans in the past but now these processes have been shortened," Mustapa said.

According to him, Dr Mahathir himself had given special attention to assist the small businessmen when he directed banks and the relevant institutions to assist the small businessmen by speeding up the approval process and disbursement of credit to the applicants.

He said that since the assistance scheme was introduced, response from the small businessmen to apply for loans had been good.

Mustapa suggested that more briefings be given to the small businessmen.

-- BERNAMA

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