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PERDASAMA-BANKS

PERDASAMA WANTS BANKS TO PROVIDE LOANS FASTER

By: Tengku Noor Shamsiah

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- Banks are urged to do away with some of the formalities so as to hasten providing loans following the new stimulus package announced by the government.

Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had recently unveiled the RM7.3 billion stimulus package to perk up the economy in the country.

Malay Traders and Entrepreneurs Association of Malaysia (PERDASAMA) president, Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir said banks had shown tremendous interest in offering the loans to businessmen in need.

"However, there are only available in very few branches. There is more room for the other banks to play a more effective role now.

"We need more banks to serve particularly not only at the state level but also at district level," he told Bernama here today.

For example, he said they should serve those people in the smaller districts of Macang and Pasir Mas in Kelantan or in Kuala Kangsar or Taiping in Perak.

Moehamad Izat said banks should not all the time refer to the headquarters when they receive loan application as this would cause considerable delay.

He said branches should be given some authority to manage and disburse loans faster.

In this era of information and communication technology, he said, "Banks should cut down on all the red tapes and go straight to the point and assist the needs of businessmen.

"We need to focus not only on businessmen in trouble but also those who want to expand their businesses.

He said that many of PERDASAMA members had applied for loans only to face problems with the bank.

There have been cases where problems with the banks were solved with PERDASAMA'S help.

Moehamad Izat pointed out that Malay businessmen should improve their communication skills and establish close ties with the bankers.

"Those who are genuinely in trouble following the economic slowdown, Sept 11 tragedy, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) spread and the recent Iraq war, will have no problems in getting loans," he said.

Commenting on the stimulus package, Moehamad Izat said there has been an overall improvement in the economy and "This can be clearly seen on the improvement of share trading volume on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange." --

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