

11 JUN 2003

HASHIM-SCHEME

PETTY TRADERS NATIONWIDE RESPOND WELL TO MICRO CREDIT SCHEME

SEREMBAN, June 11 (Bernama) -- Petty traders from all over the country have responded well to the Micro Credit Scheme being offered by Bank Pertanian Malaysia Bhd (BPMB) and Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) since June 4.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Finance Ministry, Hashim Ismail, today said that up till Monday, BPMB had received a total of 1,404 applications while BSN had received 10,894 applications.

"As of Monday also, BPMB has approved 268 applications involving RM3.8 million, while BSN has approved 196 applications amounting to RM2 million," he told reporters after briefing some 30 members of a trade association on the scheme at BPMB's branch office here today.

Also present at the function were deputy general manager 1 of BSN Ahmad Zaki Abdul Razak, BSN state manager Mohd Ali Yusuf, BPMB manager for Negeri Sembilan/Melaka Mohd Mohdi Jupri and BPMB manager for Seremban Subri Md Noh.

Hashim said that apart from preventing petty traders from getting caught by loan sharks, the scheme was also a sincere effort from the government to help them start and expand their business.

He said the scheme was a fast and easy loan plan that gave a lot of benefits to the borrowers, especially the small traders.

He also hoped that the traders would take advantage of the loan offered by the banks currently to start or expand their business.

"However, borrowers would have to be honest when making their applications for loans and also pay back accordingly in order to allow the funds (for the scheme) to be expanded for the benefit of all petty traders in the country," he said.

Under the special economic package announced by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month, the government had allocated RM1 billion to implement the Micro Credit Scheme which is aimed at giving the small businessmen easier access to loans. -- BERNAMA

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