

18 SEP 2003

Zaharah-Counter

WELFARE OFFICES TO HAVE INFO COUNTER ON THE DISABLED

KUANTAN, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- The Government will open counters in each Social Welfare Department office in the country to provide detailed information on assistance and incentives for the disabled.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said the counters would be opened as soon as possible in line with various interesting facilities and incentives for the disabled in the 2004 Budget announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Friday.

"The step is also to help the department ascertain the number of disabled people who have registered," she told reporters after opening a Paya Besar Women's Group function here today.

She said thus far, some 125,000 disabled people had registered themselves and received assistance from the Government.

The 2004 Budget had also proposed a monthly allowance of RM25 for disabled children in primary and secondary schools and RM300 for those in higher learning institutions to encourage learning.

She, therefore, encouraged families with disabled children to apply for incentives under the Budget.

Meanwhile, at the function, Dr Siti Zaharah urged all the election machinery in the Lepar, Sungai Lembing and Panching State constituencies to be prepared for the possibility of general elections.

She said this included preparations like ensuring that the registration and review of the electoral rolls ran smoothly.

-- BERNAMA

TSS LIB EMK SRI