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Shahrizat-Welfare

INCREASE WELFARE PAYMENTS TO THE LESS FORTUNATE, SAYS SHAHRIZAT

REMBAU, May 8 (Bernama) -- The state governments should consider increasing the welfare payments to the less fortunate to alleviate their hardships, said Women, Families and Social Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil today.

She said the amount also varied from one state to another.

At the federal level, the less fortunate received a higher monthly payment of between RM80 and RM235 while the aged RM350," she told reporters after the launching of the national level Mothers Day 2004 by Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamad Hasan at Padang Dewan Orang Ramai Rantau, near here today.

She said that last year the government spent RM203,268,452 for welfare assistance to 131,000 people and this year, the allocation had been increased to RM219,059,310 to cover 132,000 recipients, registered with the Welfare Services Department.

"I believe there are still many who have yet to register with the department and I urge parents or their guardians to do so," she said.

During the function, six women received recognition for being super mothers in spite of being handicapped or having handicapped children.

They are Abiaz Ibrahim, 51, from Kota Setar, Kedah, Lee Yau Yook, 45, from Durian Tunggal, Melaka, Nagammal a/p Muniandy, 40, from Banting, Selangor, Rohani Noh, 53, from Kuantan, Pahang, Batricia Richael Santau, 28, from Kota Samarahan, Sarawak and Maliah a/p K.Alagan, 43, from Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

Abiaz, met by reporters, said she treated all her eight children equally, including her fourth child Nabil Mahathir, 17, who is blind from birth.

"To me, Nabil is as normal as any other," she said of her son, who at the age of 15 graduated with a Diploma in Quranic Interpretation and Arabic

from the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Nabil, who now works as a computer technician with Mimos in Kelana

Jaya, Selangor, said he owed his success to his parents.

-- BERNAMA

APG NUR ABG