

Perkasa: Focus on economic distribution
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Malay rights group Perkasa will closely monitor the implementation of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) particularly poverty eradication under the National Key Result Areas (NKRA).

Its president Ibrahim Ali said the programme, implemented by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, was a good move in plugging the leakage in the distribution of assistance to the poor, an aspect which he said should be monitored closely.

"Perkasa is satisfied with the government's achievement in taking out 44,535 poor households from hardcore poverty through new ways of doing things, with the interest of every community being taken care of," he told Bernama.

Ibrahim said the government, however, should give serious attention to the national economic distribution agenda, saying there was still much room for improvement, especially among the Malays.

The government should implement policies to achieve the target set under the New Economic Policy, which is 30 per cent Malay equity ownership, he said.

Ibrahim said a study carried out by Perkasa showed that in 2020, the country's economy would bring about RM250 billion for the Bumiputera. This, however, would still be below the target, he said.

A study by Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) in the Prime Minister's Department showed that the National Gross Income (GNI) should reach RM1.7 trillion in 2020 for Malaysia to achieve a developed nation status.

"The Bumiputera should therefore obtain an income or a return of RM600 billion from the economy. The government should look into this issue," Ibrahim said.

The Malaysian Islamic Consumers' Association (PPIM) said poverty eradication agenda under the NKRA was successful.

Its secretary-general Maamor Osman said the programme to equip the poor with business skills would allow them to continue increasing their income and remain out of poverty circle.

"If we are to provide them with assistance, they might fall back into the poverty circle after a certain period. If we give them skills and opportunities to venture into business, they will be able to provide for their families," he said.

- Bernama