

**Orang Asli upset with BR1M rejection**  
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A member of the Temuan Orang Asli tribe is vexed that his BR1M application has been rejected despite his not having an income.

Dewi Malam, 52, who hails from Kampung Orang Asli Pulau Kempas in Hulu Langat, Selangor, said the received a reply from the Finance Ministry on Feb 16 that he was not qualified.

"I have not had a regular income in the last seven years. If the government doesn't give the money, it's fine, but don't deprive the people who really need it," Dewi said.

He said in an interview with malaysiakini.tv that he suffered disabilities in his left arm and has had trouble finding a job.

Among the reasons cited in the reply was that Dewi's pay was not under RM3,000, on top of him not being in the National Registration Department's (JPN) database.

He later produced his identity card to prove his citizenship.

'JPN is saying I'm not a Malaysian'

"What JPN is saying... means I am not Malaysian and I am not a voter in my own country.

"After the country has achieved development, they want to get rid of people such as myself," said the father of four who does odd jobs to support his family.

Dewi's children are aged 16, 17, 25 and 27 years and one of them suffers from a congenital heart condition.

The two eldest children are working, one as a cleaner and the other as a security guard while the other two are of schooling age, but Dewi cannot afford to pay for their education.

The BR1M is a one-off payment of RM500 from the government to households with an income of less than RM3,000 a month.

Last month, it was reported that Bera MCA division chairperson Tang Hock Lok, who holds a datukship, raised eyebrows when he obtained RM500 aid from the government.

However, Tang has denied any element of fraud and said his intention of applying was to donate the money to charity.