

Pakatan states 'main beneficiaries' of BR1M
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak revealed that Pakatan-controlled states of Selangor and Kelantan benefitted most from the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia or BR1M payments.

“Selangor has the most BR1M receipts with 13 percent... and from the percentage of households, Kelantan has the highest number of receivers with 84 percent of its households receiving the aid,” said the prime minister during question time in parliament today.

He explained that the total BR1M exercise saw RM1.92 billion being spent, taken from the parliament-approved treasury orders on federal management expenditures.

In all, he said, 3.8 million households received BR1M payments, which is 59 percent of the total households in the country.

He was answering a question from BN's Bintulu parliamentarian Tiong King Sing.

Asked by Tiong if the BR1M shall be continued next year and in the future, Najib said that it will depend on the state of revenue collections in the coming years.

‘No favouritism’

Najib also stressed that the aid payments are given to all those that qualify without regard to their political leanings.

“BR1M is given to all that qualify, there is no favouritism.”

Quizzed by PAS' Bachok MP Nasharuddin Mat Isa on why the BR1M distributions were done by BN component parties, Najib dismissed the matter, saying that the mechanism used to distribute the aid is not important.

“What is important is that those who qualify got the aid with no regard to their political affiliations,” said the PM.

The BN-led federal government has continued to argue that there is no ulterior motive behind the BR1M payments, calling it an effort to alleviate the burden of the rakyat in the face of rising living costs.

Pakatan leaders, however, have accused the BR1M payments of being a cheap way for the government to buy votes from the needy rakyat, especially with the measure appearing in the run-up to the next polls.

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