

## **Pakatan won't stop cash handouts once in power**

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**By Ram Anand**

Pakatan Rakyat will not discontinue the present government cash handouts should the opposition coalition take power in the coming general election, PKR director of strategy Rafizi Ramli said today.

In fact, Rafizi said, there would be even more cash handouts should Pakatan come into power, but these would be grouped differently and be more specific.

"Of course it won't be called BR1M. We will not be general, just to target families earning less than RM3,000. We will specifically target different groups that are really needy, such as housewives and so on," he said.

However, Rafizi insisted that Pakatan would not make cash handouts its core economic programme.

"We will concentrate and spend more on alleviating the economic problems of the people," he added at a press conference on the BN manifesto at the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya.

Rafizi said while Pakatan was not fundamentally opposed to BR1M, it does not see such cash handouts as solving the economic problems of the people.

'It'll be cheaper to bring down prices'

"Under the BN manifesto, the government will spend between RM7 billion and RM11 billion a year on BR1M, taking into account the inflation rate as well," he said.

"But we must keep in mind that the number of recipients for BR1M will increase over time. We need solve the economic problems of these people," he said.

Rafizi stressed that the money could be better used to alleviate economic concerns, pointing out that it would even be cheaper for the government to bring down oil prices.

"To bring down oil price by 40 sen (a litre), the cost will be RM6.8 billion only a year," he said.

Rafizi added that any aid given under BR1M would in the end be diluted by rising prices of goods and also a lack of structural economic reforms - such as weeding out corruption.

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