

PM: More than half of EIS claims from poor, hardcore poor workers

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PARLIAMENT | Over 50 percent of Employment Insurance Scheme (EIS) claims filed as of Dec 3 were from workers who earned RM2,000 or less a month, according to Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the workers, identified as poor and hardcore poor, were among 101,385 retrenched employees who filed claims for compensation.

"This (overall number) is higher in comparison to around 40,000 workers in 2019 and 24,000 in 2018," said Muhyiddin during Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat today.

The latest figures revealed by Muhyiddin also saw an additional 5,390 new applications since the previously reported number of 95,995 claims filed from January to Nov 13.

The Pagoh MP was responding to Ahmad Faizal Azumu (Bersatu-Tambun) who

asked whether the government had identified individuals who suddenly fell into the categories of poor or hardcore poor due to Covid-19 restrictions, and on the measures taken to assist them.

The premier also cited findings from Unicef's recent "Families on the Edge" study among urban poor families that set their unemployment rate at around 35 percent, and identified one in every two adults as being poor.

"The government is constantly monitoring the state of poverty among the people through our e-Kasih system which we will improve," Muhyiddin added.

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