

RM300 cash aid for households, RM100 for singles this January

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Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim today announced that the government will continue with the direct cash aid programme implemented by previous administrations, as part of the mini-budget approved by Parliament.

He says the aid will benefit nine million recipients, including households and singles, with the first payout to be made in January.

Households will be receiving RM300, while singles will receive RM100.

The premier did not detail income brackets for recipients, but it may follow the previous qualifiers under the Keluarga Malaysia Aid (BKM) programme.

The cash aid was among the initiatives the government is funding through the mini budget which consists of two components.

First, to pay for civil service emoluments and aid, the government is taking RM107.7 billion from its Consolidated Fund.

The second component involves RM55.96 billion from the Development Fund, to fund development projects that are already ongoing.

The mini budget, which was just passed today, is necessary to pay civil servant salaries and keep the government in operation as the previous Budget 2023 tabled by the Ismail Sabri Yaakob administration was not passed before Parliament was dissolved.

Anwar said a new Budget 2023 will be tabled in February.

Aid for students, rubber tappers

Besides the direct cash aid, Anwar announced the government will be giving RM100 in early school aid to all children regardless of their parents' income levels.

The mini budget will also fund textbooks and meal assistance programmes for school children.

The government will also be creating 50,000 contract jobs for youths, including 35,000 in GLCs through the MyStep programme. The jobs will offer salaries between RM1,500 and RM2,100.

For rubber-tapping smallholders affected by the monsoon, Anwar said the government will give them an additional aid of RM200 in January.

This is on top of RM600 already paid out to 320,000 recipients in November and December.

Meanwhile, the prime minister also agreed to continue with the previous government's proposal to raise civil servant salaries Grade 56 and below by RM100.

Special cash aid of RM700 will also be given to civil servants, while pensioners will get RM350.

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