

Over 29bil paid out in subsidies

Major portion went towards fuel, says Hilmi

A TOTAL of RM29.1bil was paid out in subsidies from 2004 to 2006, the Finance Ministry said.

Some RM11bil in subsidies was paid out last year, RM11.8bil in 2005 and RM6.25bil in 2004.

A major portion of the payments were fuel subsidies — RM8.5bil was paid out in 2006, RM9.2bil in 2005 and RM3.6bil in 2004.

Parliamentary secretary Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said the subsidies were spent on padi, school textbooks, petroleum, diesel and liquid



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petroleum gas, toll payments, food programmes and others.

He said the Government managed to stabilise and control the prices of

THE STAR: WED 20/6/2007

consumer goods through fuel subsidy payments, while the operating costs of sectors such as public transportation and fisheries were under control.

“The padi subsidy programme, for example, reduced the financial burden of our farmers.

“The subsidy programmes are designed to focus on the lower-income group, increasing the people’s purchasing power and reducing the economic gap between various sectors of the society,” he told



Dr Hilmi: ‘Padi subsidy reduces burden of farmers’

Razali Ibrahim (BN - Muar).

Dr Hilmi told Datuk Paduka Badruddin Amirudin (BN - Jerai) that it would be up to the relevant ministries to seek the Government’s help to increase the subsidies for those in the transportation and rice farming industries.