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PM wants aid given out smoothly

CALL FOR EFFICIENCY: Menteris besar, chief ministers told to ensure BR1M recipients are not kept waiting long

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MENTERIS besar and chief ministers were yesterday told to ensure smooth distribution of the Bantuan Rakyat Malaysia (BR1M) RM500 one-off payment to recipients.

"He (Prime Minister Datuk Seri-Najib Razak) does not want BR1M recipients to come early in the

morning and only receive the aid late in the evening.

"If this occurs, then a programme that is aimed at bringing cheer to the people may backfire," Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said.

This was among several issues highlighted by Najib to all menteris besar and chief ministers at a meeting in Putrajaya yesterday.

The MBs and CMs were also told to simplify the development process in their respective states.

These, Hasan said, included the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP), which Najib said needed to be implemented fast but not at the expense of overlooking certain laws and regulations.

"The approval process needs to be faster so that projects can be carried out quickly. We must also ensure that these projects reach the targeted groups," Hasan said when contacted.

He said all states were also asked to ensure the success of the Per-

manent Food Production Park (TKPM) project to enhance food production in each state.

This, he said, was because some TKPM projects were facing problems that defeated the sole purpose of their establishment.

Hasan also said he had asked the Federal Government to approve the state's application for more Rukun Tetangga teams to be set up.

"The voluntary patrol scheme under Rukun Tetangga has helped reduce the crime rate in the state."

Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, meanwhile, said the prime minister had agreed to develop housing projects using the industrialised building system (IBS) technology in all states.

"Through IBS, the implementation of housing projects is expected to be completed within 40 days.

"The cost will be fully borne by the Federal Government."

Ali also said that the permanent food production park in Malacca would be set up in Selangor soon.