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Kelantan religious council to get 'wang ehsan'

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IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Funds for poverty eradication programmes, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Federal Government, through the Finance Ministry, yesterday signed an agreement with Kelantan Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Council (MAIK) on the council's appointment as the implementing agency of the "wang ehsan" (compassionate payment) programme

in the state.

A statement issued by the ministry stated that the appointment of MAIK as the implementing agency, alongside the Kelantan Federal Development Department, was in line with a suggestion by the Kelantan palace.

It stated that under the agreement, MAIK would share the

"wang ehsan" funds with the department at a ratio of 50:50 to implement the programme with a maximum of RM25 million a year for each implementing agency.

"The focus is on poverty eradication programmes and school aid for single mothers and orphans."

Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah signed the agreement on behalf of the Federal Government, while MAIK was represented by its deputy president Dr Nik Mohd Azlan Abdul Hadi.

The ceremony was witnessed by

Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan Dr Tengku Muhammad Faiz Petra Sultan Ismail Petra, who is MAIK president, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In a post on Facebook, Najib said he hoped that the appointment of MAIK would make Kelantan's "wang ehsan" programme more effective.

"God willing, the appointment would make the Kelantan State Wang Ehsan programme more effective, maintaining the main focus of poverty eradication and aid for schools, single mothers and orphans," he said. **Bernama**