

PM: eKasih to be upgraded

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RM6.8mil allocated to improve 'old' system, says Muhyiddin

THE National Poverty Data Bank System, also known as eKasih, will be upgraded to provide better data to the government, says Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

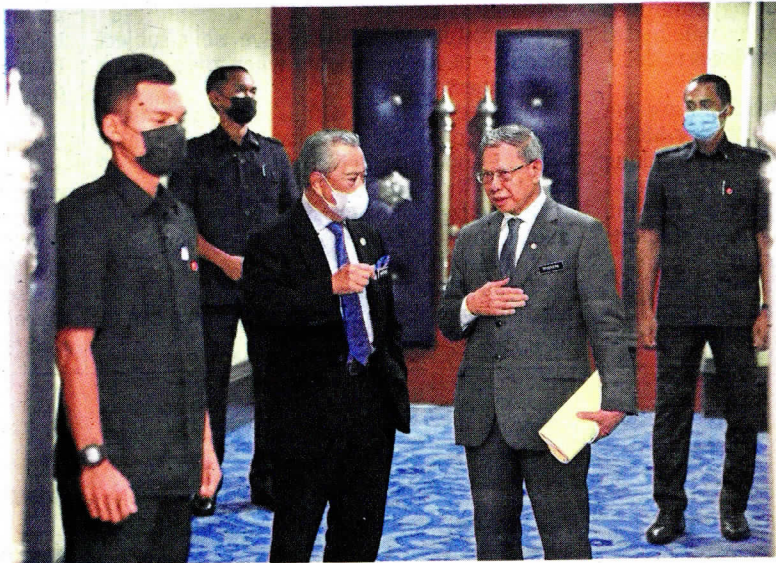
The Prime Minister said the eKasih system, which was developed in 2007, was under the purview of the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit.

"This system is old and not very effective, so it will be upgraded with new technology to ensure the data is more accurate and new measures will be determined.

"But the name will still remain as eKasih," he said in his reply to Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu (Bersatu-Tambun) who asked in his supplementary question if there would be a more reliable and realistic system to help identify the poor and hardcore poor so that aid could be given out to these groups.

Muhyiddin said with the upgrading of the eKasih system, there would be more comprehensive information to help identify those in need, both in urban and rural areas.

He also said these targeted groups would continue to be identified and given assistance under the Cabinet Committee on Poverty, which is currently chaired by him.



Exchange of views: Muhyiddin having a conversation with Jeli MP Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed outside a hall at the Parliament building.

— Bernama

"A sum of RM6.8mil has been allocated to upgrade the eKasih system next year," he said.

On a related matter, the Prime Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic had affected the global economy and based on the World Bank estimation, between 88 million and 115

million people would fall into the hardcore poor category worldwide this year.

"The pandemic has also caused an increase in unemployment and the number of poor and hardcore poor in the country.

"The data is being collected now to

identify those who fall under both categories," he said.

As of Dec 3, Muhyiddin said there were 101,385 Malaysians who have claimed from the Employment Insurance Scheme, a number that is higher compared to about 40,000 last year and some 24,000 in 2018.

"Some 52% are those who earn RM2,000 and below," he said.

Muhyiddin said the government was aware of the difficulties and hardship faced by the people due to the pandemic and the movement control order.

As such, he said the government had come up with various recovery measures to balance the economy, social and health needs of the people.

Among them are the introduction of two Bantuan Prihatin Nasional under Prihatin and Kita Prihatin economic stimulus packages with a total allocation of RM18.2bil.

So far, 10.6 million people have benefited from the first stimulus package while another 9.86 million from the second package.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com

