

PM, district officers to have talks on poverty eradication

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is expected to hold a meeting with all district officers nationwide next week to discuss efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty in the country.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said it was the government's effort to address the issue of poverty in the country, especially in rural areas, Bernama reported.

"Among the things that will be discussed in the meeting will be the eradication of hardcore poverty and how it can be implemented at the district level," he said during a question and answer session at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was replying to a supplementary question from Datuk Dr Nik Muhammad Zawawi Salleh (PN-Pasir Puteh), who asked about the new programme introduced by the government in an effort to address the problem of hardcore poverty.

Ahmad said the government has approved RM750 million in Budget 2023 to eradicate hardcore poverty this year, with the allocation

> Govt planning to introduce new programmes to help the poor secure jobs, says deputy finance minister

channelled to the Economy Ministry to implement three new programmes, including providing jobs to certain groups.

He said the government also provides a Rahmah cash aid of RM2,500 to help households with an income of less than RM2,500 and who have live children.

He added that an additional RM1,500 would also be channelled if they are in the e-Kasih group (under the purview of the Implementation Coordination Unit, Prime Minister's Department).

At the same time, Ahmad said the government is also providing business training for the group to enable them to be independent and not rely on financial assistance.

"This group needs to be given training before they can do business. How long will they be able

to cling to the available aid? Will they be able to get out of hardcore poverty? They need to be trained and become small-scale entrepreneurs."

Ahmad said the government is providing RM900 million to train hawkers and petty traders through Bank Simpanan Nasional and RM330 million from National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund.

It was reported that the number of registered poor heads of households has decreased from 124,744 to 118,217 for the period of Dec 15, 2022, to May 15 this year, while according to e-Kasih data the registered number of poor heads of household has also decreased from 304,911 to 299,080 in the same period.

Meanwhile, Anwar said several

ministries will study the investment initiatives put forward by the Negeri Sembilan government to support the development of Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 (MVV 2.0).

He said they are the Transport, Works, Water and Natural Resources, and Investment, International Trade and Industry Ministries.

"To support the development of MW 2.0, I hope that local authorities can focus on advancing development in the MW 2.0 area and be given priority so that development can be carried out in an orderly and inclusive manner.

"This effort will bring benefits to all parties, especially the people in this state. The plan needs to be steered well to drive the country's success and excellence, we need strong leadership with high integrity," he said at the launch of a catalyst project for the MW 2.0 in Port Dickson yesterday.

The text of the speech was read by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who was present on behalf of Anwar.