

EASING BURDEN

PM announces RM1.7b Rahmah payouts, Raya cash aid for civil servants

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has announced several initiatives to alleviate the financial strain on the public, particularly ahead of the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations.

Starting March 24, the government will begin disbursing Phase 2 of the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR), which will benefit 8.5 million recipients across the country. This phase, amounting to RM1.7 billion — up from RM1.5 billion last year — aims to support nearly 60 per cent of Malaysia's adult population, providing financial aid of up to RM650.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also finance

minister, reaffirmed the government's commitment to easing the financial burden of the people, particularly in light of the approaching festive season.

"The increase in STR and Sara (Sumbangan Asas Rahmah) allocations for 2025 by RM3 billion, or 30 per cent, to RM13 billion is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the livelihoods of the people equitably," he said in a statement.

The Phase 2 payments will be distributed as follows:

HOUSEHOLDS with incomes below RM2,500 will receive between RM150 and RM650;

HOUSEHOLDS earning between RM2,501 and RM5,000 will re-

ceive between RM100 and RM300; and,

SENIOR citizens without spouses and single individuals will receive RM150.

Eligible recipients, whether new or listed in the STR database, will receive their payments through direct bank transfers or cash disbursement via Bank Simpanan Nasional.

The government has also introduced a new approach for STR 2025 registration, keeping it open throughout the year to allow more individuals to benefit from the aid.

For those not listed in the database, an application for verification based on eligibility cri-

teria must be submitted.

Further details on eligibility and frequently asked questions can be accessed on the official STR portal at <https://bantuantunai.hasil.gov.my>.

In addition to the STR disbursements, Anwar also announced a special Aidilfitri financial aid for civil servants.

Starting March 24, all civil servants in Grade 56 and below will receive a one-time payment of RM500, and government retirees, including both pensionable and non-pensionable veterans, will receive RM250. The initiative, amounting to a total of up to RM1 billion, is a gesture of appreciation for the improved gover-

nance, service delivery and dedication of civil servants.

"This assistance reflects our commitment to better governance and is aimed at acknowledging the continued efforts of our civil servants," Anwar said after performing prayers at Sultan Abdul Samad Mosque in Sepang yesterday.

He also reminded the public about the importance of governance and how the government's focus on revenue management and preventing corruption had contributed to this special financial aid.

Anwar spent time with more than 3,000 congregants after prayers yesterday.