

**'It's BN govt that funds all welfare cases' '**  
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**By Ili Liyana Mokhtar**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Thirty per cent of the RM1.2 billion spent by the government on welfare last year was distributed to opposition-ruled states.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said although the opposition was championing a welfare state agenda, the Barisan Nasional government still provided aid for welfare cases in the states run by opposition parties.

"We expect to spend RM1.4 billion this year," she said yesterday.

"Our focus has always been the people, we are sincere in helping them and making sure they receive the aid they need."

She said the ministry spent RM371 million on welfare in 2008, and RM759 million in 2009.

Shahrizat said the ministry, through the Welfare Department, allocated RM116 million for Kedah, RM98 million for Selangor, RM85 million for Kelantan and RM57 million for Penang, last year.

"The BN government is the one that has been looking after the welfare of the people all this time and not the state governments," she said.

"The state governments gave out some aid and made it into a big deal.

"They gave RM100 a month and they publicised it as if they had helped so many people, when in fact, we are the one giving out aid in these states."

Shahrizat said the ministry gave assistance to its target groups every month, which included single mothers, the disabled and the hardcore poor.

"We, of course, have a system and aid is given according to how much a person is qualified to receive."

Earlier, Shahrizat presented food for breaking of fast and Hari Raya goodies to the armed forces, police and firemen at the Putra World Trade Centre.

She also presented RM200 as Hari Raya money to 100 police widows and 100 armed forces widows.

Later, guests at the event presented a birthday cake to the Wanita Umno chief, who celebrated her birthday last Monday.

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