

SMS Asking Opposition Members Receiving BR1M To Donate RM100 To Party Disputed
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- The messages sent via the SMS asking members of the opposition parties receiving the RM500 aid under the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) programme to donate RM100 to the party to assist them in the 13th general election are being disputed by several groups.

Umno information chief Datuk Ahmad Maslan said the request was inappropriate because BR1M was meant to assist families who earned less than RM3,000 and not for other purposes.

"The money should be utilised to improve their life, to buy necessities and not to be donated to their political parties," he told Bernama, here Wednesday.

He said although "it is up to the recipients to donate to whoever they wish, but in terms of morals, they don't appreciate the government assistance because after receiving the aid, they want to donate it to the party."

Senator Ezam Mohd Nor, meanwhile, described it as an irresponsible act.

"They are taking the rights of the poor, who need the aid, for the benefit of political parties," he said.

Pertubuhan Peribumi Perkasa Malaysia (Perkasa) president Datuk Ibrahim Ali said if the claim that the SMS messages were being distributed by the opposition parties was true, then they were committing an irresponsible act because the money was given to ease the burden of the people.

PAS vice-president Mahfuz Omar, in his SMS to Bernama, however denied that PAS had sent the SMS message, saying that the parties in the opposition pact already had sufficient fund to face the general election.

"We don't do such things, we all have sufficient fund and hope that those who receive the RM500 aid will use it for their children's education, the opposition does not need the money," he added.

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