

**Government Allocates RM30 Million For Retail Shop Transformation Programme  
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BERA, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- The government has allocated RM30 million for the Retail Shop Transformation Programme this year in a bid to improve the competitiveness of small time retailers in facing today's highly competitive retail environment.

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said in the first eight months this year, 300 old retail shops nationwide had been given a facelift and equipped with various facilities to attract more customers.

"They used to be old, poorly designed and hardly-frequented shops, but with the new facelift, some of them are seeing more customers now," he told reporters after attending an Aidilfitri open house jointly-organised by Bera Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri here Sunday.

Ismail Sabri, who is also Bera Umno Youth chief, said the cost to give the new facelift to each shop was around RM60,000.

Among the shops involved in the programme are private-owned retail shops, cooperative shops and car workshops," he said, adding that another 200 retail shops were expected to get the new facelift by end of this year.

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