

2012 Budget Offers A Second Opportunity For SMEs
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JITRA, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- The 2012 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday, offers a second opportunity for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) entrepreneurs, especially those who have previously failed.

The Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir said the SME Revitalisation Fund announced in the budget is the result of feedback from the SME entrepreneurs.

"They face financial problems and if the government does not help, there is the possibility of them going bankrupt.

"So, it is better to save and help them become successful. If they are successful, they will pay income tax and this will assist the government. I feel there will be a lot of them who will enjoy the benefits of the fund.

"It will also give those who have failed once, a second opportunity at succeeding," he added.

Mukhriz was speaking to reporters after officiating the "My Kitchen Nasir Interior Decoration" in Tanah Merah, near here today.

He also said that sometimes, the SMEs did not need a lot of funding, just a little, to assist them from facing financial difficulties.

He said among the bigger challenges for the SMEs is capital and this is what the government needs to assist with but the entrepreneurs must also help themselves.

"The capital provided by the government in the form of an easy loan will in my opinion, never be enough, as we see the number of those becoming involved in entrepreneurship increasing," he added.

Meanwhile, Mukhriz said in the 2012 Budget, Kedah had also received an allocation, specifically for Langkawi's tourism development and other factors generally.

"Among the assistance is that for fishermen and housing. As we are aware, there are many in Kedah living below the poverty line and the housing issue is one that needs to be constantly overcome," he said.

Mukhriz also said that efforts to enhance foreign investment, including at the Kulim Hi Tech Park, will benefit Kedah indirectly.

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