

Cabinet to hammer out details on RM500 cash aid
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 — The Cabinet will decide next week how to disburse the RM500 cash assistance to households earning RM3,000 and below as promised in Budget 2012, Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

The minister in the Prime Minister's Department admitted to receiving many queries from the public on how the cash would be distributed and how the government planned to identify households that qualified for the assistance.

"Many people have come forward, asking how to apply for this, what is the definition and what if they have this and that, and how to calculate the income," he was quoted as saying by Bernama Online after attending the Gerakan national delegates conference here.

He added that representatives from the Inland Revenue Board and Employees Provident Fund would be invited to attend the Cabinet meeting on the matter.

When tabling Budget 2012 in Parliament last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak promised cash handouts, more money for civil servants, schools and a fund for "high-impact development" projects as part of his measures to put cash in the pockets of voters ahead of a general election expected soon.

Among others, the prime minister pledged cash assistance in the form of one-off RM500 payments to all households with monthly incomes below RM3,000, schooling assistance of RM100 for all primary and secondary students from Year 1 to Form 5 as well as RM200 book vouchers for all Malaysian students in public and private local institutions of higher learning, matriculation and Form 6 students.

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