

**BR1M Boosts People's Confidence In Government -- Subramaniam  
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SEGAMAT, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- MIC deputy president Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM) scheme for households earning a monthly income of RM3,000 and below would boost the people's confidence in the government.

"The BR1M reflects the government's concern for the people and its commitment to ease their burden," he told reporters after the launch of the Ponggal Festival at the community hall in Batu Anam here by Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman yesterday.

In his address, Dr Subramaniam who is also Human Resources Minister urged the state government to encourage investors to take up agriculture-related downstream industry in the area along Jalan Segamat-Labis.

"This would help enhance the economy of the residents who are hoping for more employment opportunities," he said.

Subramaniam also requested of the state government to provide more job opportunities to the Indian community which claimed to have difficulty in getting employment in the public sector.

He further requested the local authorities to make it easier for the Indian community to obtain the relevant licence that would allow them to engage in business and hence, enhance their economic status.

Meanwhile, Abdul Ghani said the people were now aware that the opposition was not in the position to provide them economic security as there was no understanding among the parties.

He said opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was only capable of making empty promises which he could not fulfill.

"The opposition will continue to give empty promises for the sake of getting the people's support in the election. On the other hand, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has a wide range of agenda to improve the people's livelihood," he pointed out.

In this regard Abdul Ghani urged the Indian community not to give away any seats whether state or parliamentary to the opposition in the coming 13th general election.

In another development, the menteri besar said Segamat would become the focus for investors when the four-lane road between Segamat and Tangkak is completed in two to three years.

"The travelling time from Segamat on the North-South Expressway through Tangkak will be shortened by half an hour," he said.

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