

**The People Benefit Directly From BR1M, KR1M And RM100
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Although the RM500 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) is a one-off payment, it opens a new and historic chapter in terms of the government's concern for the people, bringing major and long term benefits.

This was the general view of BR1M recipients, including Dahlan Ibrahim, 66, who admitted as long as he could remember the government had never proven its love and attention to the people in such a manner.

"This is the proof of a concerned government. Not partial when giving the RM500 aid," he told Bernama when met at Kampung Parit Sungai Dungun in Bagan Serai, Perak, recently.

He said, for a farmer like him, there was nothing to be proud of if the government only announced mega projects. In fact, the building of a new shopping complex had no meaning because farmers could not afford to spend there.

"It is a different story if the government announces an aid like this. We will definitely benefit directly from it. It lightens our financial burden," said the village head who was also happy Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (KR1M) had also been set up to sell sundry goods at special prices.

His friends Pakcik Isa, Pakcik Man and Pakcik Bakar nodded their heads in agreement. They intended to use part of the money to buy a pair of baju Melayu and one or two sarongs for prayers as a sign of thanks.

They were part of the 5.2 million households or 79.5 per cent of all the households in the country expected to benefit from BR1M involving an allocation of RM2.6 billion.

The RM500 aid payment to heads of qualified families had started since Jan 15 while the RM100 aid per student had been paid at the end of last year.

Admitting that a village resident like him had never hated the government, Dahlan said what the people did not like were some quarters who 'stole' financial allocations intended for a village.

"Datuk (Seri) Najib and the Mentri Besar can implement programmes as good as BR1M and KR1M, but must also get rid of these embezzlers. Don't let the actions of some cause this hardworking government to be deprived of votes," he said.

Ex-village head Mat Isa Saman, 82, in supporting Dahlan, said the government contributions had also opened the eyes of hardcore opposition supporters.

According to Mat Isa, BR1M and other contributions including fertiliser and pesticide subsidies, had to a certain extent opened the eyes of the opposition towards the noble efforts of the government. In fact they, too, had benefited.

He said many supporters of the opposition had also made a beeline for forms to get BR1M and the RM100 schooling aid.

"It is okay if they also want the contributions as they are also Malaysians. Datuk (Seri) Najib's government is also not partial. However, they should not continue to abuse the government which feeds them," he added.

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