

**Very Encouraging Response For Community Franchise Programme, Says Ministry
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KUALA TERENGGANU, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Ministry has received very encouraging response for the community franchise programme it launched last year.

Speaking after the programme's launch in Terengganu here today, the ministry's domestic trade, deputy secretary-general, Datuk Daud Tahir said, so far they have approved 25 applications with loans exceeding RM600,000.

The launch was officiated by state Health, Unity and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Dr A Rahman Mokhtar.

"We have launched the programme in Perak, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Pahang to be followed by Gopeng, Perak in conjunction with the launching of the Rural Transformation Centre by the Prime Minister on Feb 18," said Daud.

He said the community franchise programme would be implemented throughout the country, including Sabah and Sarawak and is expected to close at the end of this year.

The government has also allocated RM8 million for the country's micro-franchise industry under the 10th Malaysia Plan, he added.

A Rahman said the government has introduced a franchise business system based on a micro-franchise concept.

It aimed to assist more entrepreneurs, particularly those from lower and middle income groups, to supplement their income, he said.

The programme also provided the community with information and exposure to the existence of franchise businesses with initial capital outlay of less than RM50,000.

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