

**RTC Set To Become Nerve Centre Of Rural Economic Activities - Shafie
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GOPENG, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- The Rural Transformation Centre (RTC) set to be opened nationwide will become the nerve centre of rural communities in spurring economic activities, says Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

He said the RTCs would spearhead programmes designed to integrate economic activities in an effort to improve the income of rural communities.

"The RTCs will enable the market for rural products to be expanded while exploring their export opportunities in the long run. Our goal is to generate more income for rural communities by mobilising their energy," he told reporters after meeting Perak village heads at the National Agribusiness Terminal here Thursday.

RTCs will serve as centre of logistics integration, processing and distribution of agricultural products and come equipped with facilities such as banking and insurance, skills training centres, clinics and retail space.

On the setting up of pioneer RTCs in Gopeng, Perak and Wakaf Che Yeh, Kelantan, he hoped they would become a platform for rural communities to increase their income, find employment opportunities and enrich their knowledge on entrepreneurship.

On his meeting with the village heads, he said it was aimed at providing accurate and authoritative information on government policies and approaches in developing the people and the country.

Shafie said as the conduit between the government and the people, village heads could help enlighten the people on government programmes, policies and approaches while thwarting attempts to pollute the people's minds through social media.

On a proposal for the RM200 allowance of secretaries of village development and security committees to be increased, he said it could not be done for now due to financial constraint.

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