

**AIM Has Played Crucial Role To Uplift Bumiputeras' Socio-economic Status - Nor Mohamed Bernama  
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KUCHING, March 6 (Bernama) -- Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), an agency set up to develop cottage industries, has played a crucial role in changing Bumiputeras' livelihood, particularly in improving their quality of life and socio-economic status, says a senior minister.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop said the agency has not only changed the rural community's socio-economic standing but has also transformed their lives who were once living in poverty.

"The life history of Puan Dayang Fatimah Awang Zain, a layer cake baker at Kampung Gersik in Kuching, was a classic example of how AIM can help change the socio-economic status of people participating in the Sahabat AIM project," he said when speaking at a get-together programme at Kampung Gersik here.

With a RM1,000 soft loan from AIM, Dayang Fatimah has gradually developed her business to the extent of earning nearly RM10,000 a month.

She has engaged five employees to assist her in the business. Nor Mohamed said there was nothing impossible if a person has the will and works hard to lead a quality life as evident from the lives of layer cake bakers and successful ceramic entrepreneurs here.

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