

Finance Ministry Cooperation With Banks, Finance Institutions Boosts RTC Role
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GOPENG, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Cooperation between the Finance Ministry and banking and financial institutions in Rural Transformation Centres (RTCs) can help rural traders and entrepreneurs expand their business, says Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah.

The ministry, in cooperation with Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), Agrobank, SME Bank, Yayasan Pembangunan Ekonomi Islam Malaysia (Yapeim), Tekun Nasional and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia, has created a finance cluster at the centre, he said.

"We see that rural entrepreneurs probably need loans from the finance and banking sectors, and promoting rural industry in future will also need financing facilities," he told reporters after a working visit to the Gopeng RTC here today.

"The government has been continuously developing the rural areas, but the world has changed, hence the need for a new initiative, that is why we have introduced the RTCs," he said, adding six RTCs will be developed nationwide, one each in Perak, Kelantan, Kedah, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak.

Ahmad Husni said RTCs can also enhance demand for rural agro-based products by strengthening the agricultural output supply chain.

Earlier, he launched a Tekun entrepreneur development centre and BSN branch at the Gopeng RTC besides visiting the Yapeim office and the Finance Ministry's e-Perolehan Unit.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is scheduled to officially open the Gopeng RTC here at 3pm tomorrow.

A carnival from Thursday until the weekend features exhibitions, sales of products, martial arts performances, entrepreneurship seminar, futsal tournament and a career fair.

At the event, 15 government agencies will open counters, including the Royal Malaysia Police with exhibitions on their vehicles, weapons and history as well as demonstrations by their air, forensic and bomb disposal units.

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