

Govt Committed To Double Per Capita Income
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SUNGAI PETANI, April 5 (Bernama) -- The government is serious and committed in doubling the per capita income to USD19,000 (RM58,282) by 2020, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said in striving to achieve the goal, the government would not burden the people with rising costs while fulfilling its promises.

"The BN government continuously think of ways and efforts to help the people, even the 2012 Budget lined-up various aid and measures in the interest of the people.

"The income target must be doubled in the next eight years," he said when meeting traders and taxi drivers from Kedah in Taman Ria here, Thursday.

Earlier, Muhyiddin, who is on a one-day visit to Kedah, had breakfast with the traders and taxi drivers.

He said the government could not afford to lose sight of any sector that could contribute to national development as more efforts needed to be made to turn Malaysia into a developed nation.

He said billions of dollars had been disbursed as soft loans to the people and more programmes were being designed to churn out entrepreneurs.

"The 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) alone amounted to RM1.9 billion. Four million households will benefit from it. Spend it... it is halal. Let us pray the prime minister will announce more assistance to the people," said Muhyiddin.

He said the government's policy could be implemented more effectively if the people return the Barisan Nasional (BN) to power with a resounding majority the coming general election.

Muhyiddin also announced an administrative assistance amounting to RM120,000 for 12 Kedah taxi driver/car rental/limousine associations, and RM10,000 each for branch offices of petty trader associations.

Earlier, speaking on behalf of taxi drivers and small traders, Zakaria Jaafar pledged their support to the government and outlined five proposals to ease the burden of taxi drivers and hired car operators.

The proposals are namely, ensuring Bank Simpanan Nasional implement a loan scheme for the purchase of national cars at a two per cent interest as announced in the 2012 Budget; extending the renewal of taxi/car rental/limousine permit from one year to between three and five years; approving more NGV stations; introducing incentive schemes for taxi drivers; and subsidising the purchase of new cars as taxis by RM10,000.

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