

**Parliament: 2,808 Entrepreneurs Benefit From Rural Economy Financing Scheme -
Shafie
Bernama
October 02, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- A total of 2,808 bumiputera entrepreneurs in the rural areas received funds through the Rural Economy Financing Scheme to operate their businesses and enterprises since the facility was introduced in January 2001, the Dewan Rakyat was told Tuesday.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said funds totalling RM282 million had been approved up to now under the scheme.

"Fifty of these entrepreneurs are in the districts of Baling, Sik and Hulu Perak, and the funds approved for them totalled RM5.8 million," he said when replying to a question from Datuk Taib Azamudden Md Taib (PAS-Baling).

Mohd Shafie said the outcome of a ministry study in 2010 showed that 84 per cent of the entrepreneurs registered a rise in sales while 87 per cent recorded profits after getting the funds.

He said the funded entrepreneurs in Baling, Sik and Hulu Perak were engaged in the ice cube, preserved fish, baking and handicraft enterprises.

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