

**Government Contributes RM740,000 To 12 Religious Schools, Seven Pondok Tahfiz In Kedah**  
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ALOR SETAR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Twelve public religious schools (SAR = Sekolah Agama Rakyat) and seven Pondok Tahfiz in Kedah received RM740,000 as financial contribution from the federal government, Wednesday.

The contribution was handed over by the Kedah Umno liaison chief Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah to the SAR and Pondok Tahfiz recipients at Sekolah Menengah Agama (SMA) Taufikiah Khairiah Al-Halimiah, Yan, 30km from here.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had approved the contribution during his meeting with the Kedah SAR and Pondok Tahfiz heads on Dec 20, last year.

Each school received RM50,000 while Pondok Tahfiz received RM20,000.

Ahmad Bashah said the federal government was still looking into several other requests from the SAR and Pondok Tahfiz, to strengthen Islamic education in the state.

Meanwhile state development officer Datuk Azmi Lateh who was present, said the federal government had also approved RM450,000 to complete the multipurpose hall requested by the SMA Taufikiah Al-Halimiah.

According to the school's board governance secretary Mohd Najib Fahami Yahya, the completion of the hall was on hold for more than 10 years due to lack of funds.

He said they also hoped the federal government would help them in providing food subsidy for students and matters regarding infrastructure grant and teachers' salary.

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