

**BR1M To Continue, Says Ahmad Maslan**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- The government wants to continue giving 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) handouts to needy groups, said Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan.

He said the BR1M scheme can help local economies as the cash handouts are used to buy goods, benefiting sundry shops, pasar tani, night markets and shopping centres.

"BR1M is not just a cash handout to ease the people's burden but can also bring positive impacts to domestic economic growth and consumption," he told reporters after opening the BankTech Asia Congress 2013 here Wednesday.

He was responding to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion yesterday that BR1M payments be discontinued in Budget 2014 and for ways to be found to reduce the people's dependence on the government, such as by equipping them with income-generating skills.

Ahmad said the government has provided various skills training courses at such centres as Industrial Training Institutes (ILP), MARA Skills Institutes (IKM), National Youth Skills Institutes (IKBN) and GiatMara.

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