

Umno members owe RM1 billion to entrepreneur agency, says PKR
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BY MD IZWAN

PKR has accused Umno members of failing to repay RM1 billion in loans to entrepreneur development agency, Tekun Nasional, following an admission from a top officer that the funds were meant only for Umno members.

PKR communication director Fahmi Fadzil said since Tekun was set up in 1998, a total of RM2.42 billion had been disbursed to 237,173 entrepreneurs.

The Malaysian Insider reported yesterday that Tekun chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Rahim Hassan (pic) admitted that its micro-finance facilities for small entrepreneurs were meant for Umno members.

"The opposition had accused Tekun of giving loans to Umno members, we have the right to defend it as it is an idea that came from Umno.

"That, however, does not mean we ignore applications from non-Umno members. Priority, however, is for Umno members," Abdul Rahim had said.

Fahmi pointed out that as of early this year RM1.43 billion had been repaid.

"Taking into account Abdul Rahim's statement, this means nearly 40.9% or RM1 billion in loans to Umno members have yet to be paid back," said Fahmi.

Fahmi said the disbursement of the Tekun loans proves that the Barisan Nasional government had failed in its role to help the lower income group.

He pointed out that if Tekun was effective, then there was no need for the other financial aid such as the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) which was also introduced by the government to help the lower income group.

The total number of recipients of BR1M aid in 2012 was 3.74 million and it went up to 3.99 million this year.

"The question is, has Tekun failed to improve the economic livelihood of the Malays? If yes, why?" asked Fahmi.

He also called on Tekun to open up repayment counters at the Umno elections on October 19 to collect the money owed to it. – October 8, 2013.

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