

Kesedar Settlers To Receive COLA Of RM1,000 Monthly
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GUA MUSANG, March 4 (Bernama) - Some 2,157 settlers in 11 Kesedar land schemes (RKT) involved in the replanting programme will receive cost of living aid (COLA) of RM1,000 monthly.

Distribution of the COLA from this month will involve an allocation of RM200 million from the federal government.

The COLA increase from RM500 to RM1,000 monthly was approved by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in a meeting with settler leaders in Putrajaya last year.

The Kesedar settlers thanked the government, especially the Prime Minister for being concerned for the welfare by approving the higher COLA.

Leader of RKT Kesedar Paloh 2, Abdul Rashid Ismail said the COLA of RM500 monthly was inadequate for family expenses due to the rising cost of living.

Most of the settlers were saddled with problems after their plantations were involved in the replanting programme which took a long time to produce results.

"We had expressed dissatisfaction with the COLA of RM500 monthly which is lower than that given to Felda settlers. The Prime Minister agreed with us and gave instant approval for the increase," he added.

Leader of RKT Kesedar Lebir, Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said many settlers had to pawn their jewellery as the COLA of RM500 monthly was insufficient.

"Fortunately, the Prime Minister approved the allocation. If not, many settlers may be forced to migrate to towns to find employment.

"Many settlers had actually left their families for Kuala Lumpur to find jobs including as security guards," he added.

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