

Federal Government Provides RM759 Million To Assist Entrepreneurs, Farmers Affected By Floods - DPM

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TANAH MERAH, April 11 (Bernama) -- The federal government is allocating RM759 million to assist small and medium entrepreneurs and farmers in reviving their sources of economy which were affected by the floods at the end of last year.

Deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the allocation was channeled through several ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

"We channeled the funds through several agencies such as the Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usaha Niaga (Tekun Nasional), Malaysian Fisheries Development Board (LKIM), Malaysian Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation (SME Corp) and Bank Negara.

"Of the amount, a sum of RM8.97 million is allocated specifically for small and medium entrepreneurs and farmers in Kelantan," he said at the ceremony to hand out Economic Recovery Aid to Flood Victims at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tanah Merah I, here Saturday.

Also present were Tanah Merah Umno division head, who is also the member of parliament for Tanah Merah, Datuk Ikmal Hisham Abd Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and the Director-General of the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) in the Prime Minister's Department, Tan Sri Shukry Mohd Salleh.

Muhyiddin said although the Kelantan state government was being led by the opposition, the federal government would not neglect the state and in fact had discussed with the state leaders to revive the livelihood of the flood victims in Kelantan.

"On humanitarian grounds, we put aside political differences. In fact, we sat together in the (floods) committee. If we don't do this, there will be allegations that all is being done for political reasons.

"When Umno helps, people say it's for political reason, when PAS helps, there will also be talks that it is for political reasons. So, we sit down together, people want to accuse that it is for political reason, let it be," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the federal government, through the Education Ministry, also allocated RM20 million in the form of grants to any researcher in public universities and private institutions of higher learning interested in studying the factor that caused the severe floods in Kelantan.

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