

**Number Of BR1M Recipients For RM3,000 Category Has Dropped, Says Chua  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- The number of recipients for the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) under the RM3,000 monthly income category has dropped by 200,000 this year, as compared to last year.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong said this was a positive outcome, believed to be the result of various aid programmes initiated by the government, including microcredit loans which encouraged recipients to venture into business.

"There has been a drop in the number of recipients in the RM3,000 category, from 4.3 million in 2014, to 4.1 million this year."

"This means that BR1M recipients will not continue receiving the aid when there is an increase in the household income," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Dr Noor Azmi Ghazali (BN-Bagan Serai) here.

Noor Azmi wanted to know if BR1M would be strengthened as a social security net programme, as well as the number of people expected to be taken out from receiving the aid.

Earlier, in reply to an original question from Datuk Hasbullah Osman (BN-Gerik) on the drop in the number of recipients, Chua stressed that BR1M was only given to those who passed screening by the finance ministry to ease the burden of the lower-income group.

"To ensure that only those who are really eligible obtain the aid, a comprehensive check is done each year, involving various agencies including the Inland Revenue Board and the Public Services Department," he said.,

He added that to date, a total of RM13 billion had been allocated for BR1M to be distributed to almost 7.2 million recipients.

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