

**Government Considering Monthly Allowance To 530,000 Smallholders - Risda  
Bernama  
Oct 11, 2015**

KANGAR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- The government will consider a monthly allowance of RM500 or more in addition to a one-off payment to over 530,000 smallholders and rubber tappers to ease their burden, due to a fall in the price of the commodity.

Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) chairman Datuk Zahidi Zainal Abidin said the allowance and payments however, would depend on the government's financial situation.

"The smallholders should be aware that the government is committed to help them but the prices of the commodity is determined by prices in the global market. The government will its best to help them," he told reporters after presenting certificates to 217 participants of the Agro-Based Industry Entrepreneurship Seminar 2015, here Sunday.

Zahidi said Risda also planned to organise an entrepreneurs carnival nationwide starting next year, in efforts to assist entrepreneurs to introduce their products in the market.

He said the carnival would involve collaboration from the Tourism and Culture Ministry and to be included in the state tourism's calendar.

"We also want to attract foreign tourists to come and buy products of smallholders to boost their economy," he added.

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