

BR1M poses financial burden to country - Xavier Jayakumar

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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The decision by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to reduce the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) payouts before eventually discontinuing the scheme is a right decision because BR1M poses a financial burden to the country in the long term, said Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar.

He said BR1M, which was introduced in 2012, was not fairly distributed to the people.

“With the present economic status of the country, BR1M, in the long run, is not sustainable. The handouts, from RM500 to RM800 then to RM1,200, where will it end?”

“Not everyone is getting it (BR1M). It is not fairly distributed on the ground. It is a political tool,” he said when met at a luncheon get-together with the Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources here today.

In an interview with a news portal recently, Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying that his administration aimed to reduce BR1M in stages before it is fully discontinued.

Yesterday, Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali said the disbursement of BR1M should be discontinued as it had elements of corruption to get the support of the people.

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