

'No more hardcore poor by 2010'

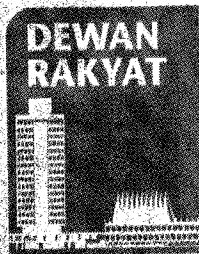
NST-16/11/2006

THE country's poverty reduction efforts should result in a drop from the current rate of 11.9 per cent to 5.95 by 2010.

Deputy Rural and Regional Development Minister, Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman, winding up the ministry's Supplementary Supply Bill 2007, said the government also targeted a zero hardcore poor rate in 2010 from the present 2.9 per cent.

"Allocations are channelled to welfare departments in the respective districts.

"Other agencies, such as Risda and Felcra, responsible



■ Reports by
**M.K. Megan,
Eileen Ng and
June Ramli**

for helping the poor in rural areas, are also provided with

funds to improve the livelihood of the hardcore poor," he said.

To a question from Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (Keadilan-Permatang Pauh) on why the poverty rate was as high as 32.5 per cent among the Orang Asli, Zainal said some Orang Asli were reluctant to take part in government-sanctioned activities.

"The Orang Asli Affairs Department has introduced projects worth up to RM200 million since the 7MP but the participation rate was poor.

"Its objective is to reduce poverty among the Orang Asli