

Higher government aid brings relief to families

KUALA LUMPUR: The increase in Sumbangan Asas Rahmah aid to RM200 per month, which took effect this month, has been welcomed by its 5.4 million recipients, especially those with families.

For Rozanawati Mat Salleh, 38, a housewife in Ulu Tiram, Johor, the higher aid amount has eased the financial burden of supporting a family of six, including two school-going children.

"With the increase in assistance to RM200 a month, we are now able to buy more kitchen essentials, even if it only lasts about two weeks.

"So, my husband's salary as a lorry driver can go towards our children's school expenses."

This year, the Madani government raised the total assistance to RM2,100 for households categorised as poor and hardcore poor in the eKasih database, an increase from RM1,200 last year.

The assistance of RM100 per month was credited to recipients' MyKad from January to March this year. Beginning April 1, the rate was increased to RM200 monthly, benefiting 5.4 million recipients, an almost eightfold rise from the previous 700,000.

In addition to Sumbangan Asas Rahmah, the second phase of the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah was disbursed, starting March 24, reaching 8.5 million recipients.

This represents 60% of Malaysian adults, with assistance of up to RM650.

For single mother, Nurul Adila Izhar, 31, from Jelutong, Penang, the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah assistance has significantly impacted how she manages her family's daily expenses.

"It has really helped me cover our basic needs – buying kitchen essentials, paying for my child's education, ensuring that we have nutritious food and covering daily costs like transport and utility bills," said Nurul Adila, who is raising her child alone, following the death of her husband.

Another recipient, Syamim Mansor, 29, from Shah Alam, Selangor, said that the assistance has helped ease the cost of caring for her young child.

"I use the money to buy diapers and formula milk for my baby," said the private sector employee. – Bernama