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Govt to announce BPN 2.0 2nd phase payment date soon – Tengku Zafrul

PRESS CITATIONS | 06 JANUARY 2021



KUALA LUMPUR, **Jan 6** – The government will announce the date of payment of the second phase of Bantuan Prihatin Nasional (BPN 2.0) soon, said Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

He said the government would also announce in the near future the new applications and approved appeals, which are expected to be channeled starting this month.

The process of reviewing new applications and appeals of BPN 2.0 is still underway, he added.

"The fulfillment of the first phase of BPN 2.0 through BSN for those whose accounts failed to be credited is still ongoing," he said when presenting the 35th LAKSANA Report, the first report for 2021 today.

On the PRIHATIN Special Grant (GKP) 2.0, Tengku Zafrul said the reviewing of new applications and appeals is in the process of cross-checking between the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia and the local authority, and the result will be announced in the near future.

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In terms of the first phase of the Wage Subsidy Programme (PSU 1.0), of which the application closed on Sept 30, 2020, Tengku Zafrul said as at Dec 25, 2020, the approved wage subsidy applications valued at RM12.682 billion from RM12.608 billion in the previous week.

As for PSU 2.0, which started on Oct 1, 2020, he said as at Dec 25, 2020, RM418.67 million had been channelled to 39,203 employers to continue operating and maintain employment for 307,420 employees.

In the previous week, the amount channelled under PSU 2.0 stood at RM239.73 million, involving 51,022 employers and 420,193 employees, he added.

On the RM2 billion allocated under the PENJANA SME (small and medium enterprises) Financing scheme, he said financing worth RM1.12 billion involving 5,764 applications had been approved as at Dec 25, 2020.

On the RM1 billion PENJANA Tourism Financing targeting SMEs and micro SMEs in the sector who are still affected by COVID-19, he said as at Dec 25, 2020, 261 out of 550 applications had been approved, with a total financing of RM52.8 million against 245 applications with a value of RM49.9 million as at Dec 11, 2020.

"The TEKUN Business Recovery Scheme (TBRS) is also catered for micro SMEs.

"As at Dec 25, 2020, a total of RM99.4 million had been channelled under TBRS, benefitting 14,893 micro SMEs," he said.

On the PENJANA Credit Micro Financing under Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), Tengku Zafrul said as at Dec 25,2020, RM282.8 million had been channelled to 8,158 micro SMEs, including those in retail and services.

On the RM200 million Bumiputera Relief Financing (BRF), which is managed by Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Bhd (PUNB), he said as at Dec 25, 2020, the fund had been channelled to 322 SMEs involving a value of RM82.8 million versus 270 SMEs totalling RM68.2 million as at Dec 11, 2020.

In terms of the RM400 million financing support for the agriculture and food industry for farmers, ranchers and fishermen, he said RM350 million was allocated under the Agrobank Microcredit Financing Scheme.

"As at Dec 25, 2020, RM64.7 million had been channelled under this scheme to 6,325 micro agricultural SMEs compared with RM60.9 million for 6,094 micro agricultural SMEs as of Dec 11,2020," he said.

On the 100 per cent export duty exemption to boost the commodity sector, which also includes the palm oil-based industry, the Finance Minister said as at Dec 25, 2020, RM426.9 million has been utilised compared with RM373 million as at Dec 11, 2020.

On the sales tax exemption for passenger vehicles, he said RM197.57 million sales tax relief had been utilised as at Dec 25, 2020 compared with RM192.7 million as at the previous week.

On the PEKA B40 Health Care Scheme (PeKA B40), he said 191,737 claims valued at RM19.57 million were received as at Dec 25,2020 compared with 186,312 claims totalling RM18.35 million in the previous week.

On the hiring incentive programme and training assistance, Tengku Zafrul said 128,778 employees had secured employment through the programme as at Dec 25,2020 against 122,126 employees as at Dec 11, 2020.

Under the reskilling and upskilling programme, he said 130,385 individuals had been approved to participate in the programme as at Dec 25, 2020 versus 129,667 individuals the week earlier.

On the public transport subsidy MY30, he said as at Dec 25, 2020, RM127.74 million has been channelled to 751,414 subscribers compared with RM123.8 million for 728,225 subscribers as at Dec 11, 2020.

Bernama Bantuan Prihatin Nasional

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