



MEDIA STATEMENT

**YB TENGKU DATO' SRI ZAFRUL TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

28TH LAKSANA REPORT

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIHATIN RAKYAT
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE (PRIHATIN),
NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN (PENJANA) &
KITA PRIHATIN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE (KITA PRIHATIN)**

12 November 2020



INTRODUCTION

Assalamu'alaikum WBT dan Regards.

1. I hope all Malaysians are always healthy, wherever you are.
2. Today I will share the **28th LAKSANA Report**. In addition to the announcement of Budget 2021 last week as well as initiatives to continue the fight with COVID-19, help the people and revive the economy; our efforts is continuous in ensuring that the PRIHATIN, PENJANA and KITA PRIHATIN packages are constantly monitored and implemented.
3. I will share the implementation status of the PENJANA and KITA PRIHATIN initiatives, followed by a review of current issues. For the PRIHATIN initiatives, the list of its implementation status will be shared on the Ministry's website.

PENJANA (National Economic Recovery Plan)

4. Under PENJANA, the initiatives are focused on three main objectives, namely:
 - a. Empowering the People;
 - b. Propelling Businesses; and
 - c. Stimulating the Economy.

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 1: EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE

5. Let us start with the first objective of PENJANA, which is to empower the people.
6. **First, the PeKa B40 Health Care Scheme** which is managed by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH). Eligible recipients of the Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) and their registered spouse, aged 40 years and above, will be fully funded by the Government for health screenings at registered clinics. Through this scheme, emphasis is given to meet health needs such as the **early detection for non-communicable diseases**. Between 1 July and 30 October 2020, a total of **139,842 claims** worth **RM12.37 million** were received.
7. **Second, the Social Assistance Support for Vulnerable Groups**. The Government has allocated a one-off RM300 aid for vulnerable groups such as the differently abled and single mothers registered with the Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (JKM), as well as Home Help Service volunteers. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **RM68.97 million** has been channelled to benefit **229,893 recipients**.
8. **The Third Initiative is the Wage Subsidy Programme (PSU)**. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **RM12.16 billion of wage subsidy** has been approved to **benefit more than 322,284 employers** as well as more than **2.639 million employees**. The next phase is PSU 2.0, which commenced on 1 October 2020. As a reminder, employers can still apply for PSU 2.0 under the KITA PRIHATIN Package which is open for application until 31 December 2020. I would also like to emphasise that in Budget 2021, the Government has allocated RM1.5 billion to extend the PSU for another 3 months; to assist 70,000 employers and 900,000 workers, especially in the tourism and retail sectors.

My message, in addition to helping employees, is that this Wage Subsidy Programme also prioritises entrepreneurs' abilities to maintain their business capacity. To the affected employers, do obtain Government's assistance in order to maintain operational capacity and to ensure that your company remains competitive, especially as the business environment improves.

Report Date	Amount Approved* (RM billion)	Number of Workers* (million)	Number of Employers*
30 October	12.159	2.639	322,284
23 October	12.000	2.639	322,158
16 October	11.998	2.639	322,150
9 October	11.996	2.638	322,134
2 October	11.967	2.636	322,022
25 September	11.930	2.633	321,633
28 August	10.383	2.620	320,440
31 July	8.995	2.582	318,258
26 June	7.074	2.455	307,518
29 May	4.018	2.197	286,338
24 April	1.606	1.452	207,237

*Cumulative Amount

9. **Fourth, the Hiring Incentive Programme and Training Assistance.** As of 30 October 2020, a total of **70,113 employees** (an increase from **64,494** last week) have managed to secure jobs through this programme. This number includes **56,315 workers under the age of 40; 8,743 people for the age group of 40 to 60; as well as 331 PWD and 4,724 apprentices.**

The top 5 sectors of employment are manufacturing (24%), services (20%), wholesale and retail trade (15%), accommodation and food services (11%), and construction (5%) sectors.

According to data from the **National Employment Services Portal** which is **MyFutureJobs**, the hiring trend over the past three months, namely August, September and October are dominated by the professional, technical and service sectors.

Date As Of	Category of People Who Get Jobs				Amount*
	< 40 years	40 – 60 years	PWD	Apprentices	
30 October	56,315	8,743	331	4,724**	70,113
23 October	51,896	7,803	322	4,473**	64,494
16 October	46,838	7,168	302**	4,514	58,822
9 October	41,808	6,530	309	4,204	52,851
2 October	38,189	5,966	293	4,169	48,617
25 September	34,476	5,456	284	3,782	43,998
28 August	18,354	3,266	178**	2,818	24,616
21 August	15,113	2,856	220	2,385	20,574

*Cumulative Amount

** The decrease compared to the previous week was because after further coordination and analysis, a number of applicants were found not to be disabled/apprentices.

10. Fifth, Reskilling and Upskilling Programme. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **106,047 individuals have been approved** (an increase from **105,312** last week) to participate in the programmes provided. Among the courses that are in high demand are the IR4.0 programme, entrepreneurship training, trade digitisation, as well as the job search skills Boot Camp programme. The full list is available on the Ministry's website.

No.	Ministry / Agency	Programme / Scheme / Initiative
1.	Human Resource Development Berhad	SME Development
		Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IREV4.0)
		Place & Train
		Gerak Insan Gemilang (GIG)
		B40 Development
2.	Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurs and Cooperatives (MEDAC)	INSKEN Business Training
		Program Micro Connector
3.	Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA)	New Health Care and Safety Special Module
		Building Internal Entrepreneur Capabilities by Engaging E-Commerce Bespoke Programme (e-entrepreneur) - Training E-commerce Platform
		Building Capabilities and Providing Jobs Through Competencies / Short Courses Programme
		Building Capabilities and Providing Jobs Through Industry Boot Camp
		Building Internal Entrepreneur Capabilities by Engaging E-commerce Bespoke Programme (e-entrepreneur) - Bespoke
4.	East Coast Economic Region Development Council	ETEP Enhanced Train& Place (PENJANA)
5.	Northern Corridor Implementation Authority	JomNiaga@NCER
		JomKerja@NCER
6.	Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC)	Community Skills Development
7.	Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE)	Gig Economy Programme
		Entrepreneurship Programme

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 2: PROPELLING BUSINESSES

11. Next, I would like to share the achievements under the second objective of PENJANA, which is Propelling Businesses.

12. **First, PENJANA SME Financing.** The Government has allocated RM2 billion, with priority given to SMEs which have never received any bank financing before. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **4,488 SME applications have been approved with a financing value of RM965.5 million.**

Date As Of	Number of Approved Applications*	Amount Disbursed* (RM million)
30 October	4,488	965.5
23 October	4,319	942.6
16 October	4,176	930.4
9 October	3,964	899.6
2 October	3,617	833.6
25 September	3,351	795.3
28 August	1,615	426.2
21 August	1,172	329.5

*Cumulative Amount

13. **Second, PENJANA Tourism Financing** with an allocation of **RM1 billion.** As of 30 October 2020, **441 SMEs have submitted their applications**, out of which **181 applications with a total of RM35.9 million have been approved.**

14. **Third, TEKUN Business Recovery Scheme (TBRS),** especially for Micro SMEs. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **RM79.65 million** has been channelled under TBRS to benefit **11,972 Micro SMEs.**

Date As Of	Number of Approved Applications*	Amount Disbursed* (RM million)
30 October	11,972	79.65
23 October	11,841	78.7
16 October	11,683	77.4
9 October	11,546	76.6
2 October	11,481	76.1
25 September	11,383	75.5
28 August	6,908	47.7
31 July	909	6.8

*Cumulative Amount

15. The fourth is **PENJANA Credit Micro Financing under Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN)**. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **RM167.4 million** has been channelled to benefit **4,674 Micro SMEs in the retail and services sector**.

Date	Number of Approved Applications*	Amount Disbursed* (RM million)
30 October	4,674	167.4
23 October	3,866	140.2
16 October	3,668	133.3
9 October	3,266	119.4
2 October	2,692	98.7
25 September	2,007	73.7
28 August	399	15.2

*Cumulative Amount

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 3: STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

16. Next, I will share updates on the measures for the third PENJANA objective, which is Stimulating the Economy.
17. **Support for the Agriculture and Food Industry.** This initiative was introduced to stimulate the growth of the agriculture and food sectors through **financing as well as revolving capital for farmers, ranchers and fishermen**. Out of the total allocation of **RM400 million**, **RM350 million** has been allocated under the **Agrobank Micro Credit Financing**. As of 30 October 2020, a total of **RM38 million** has been channelled, benefitting **4,369 Agricultural Micro SMEs**.

KITA PRIHATIN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

18. Next I would like to touch on the RM10 billion KITA PRIHATIN Package which was announced last September.
19. For BPN 2.0, which is expected to ease the burden of 7.5 million B40 recipients as well as 3.1 million M40 recipients; **as of 3 November 2020**, a total of RM4.5 billion has been successfully channelled to over 9.86 million recipients. This includes 7 million recipients from the B40 category and 2.86 million recipients from the M40 category.
20. For BPN 2.0 recipients **without bank accounts**, they can claim the assistance in cash at Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) branches from 26 October 2020. There were also 6,000 recipients whose accounts failed to be credited, involving the sum of RM2.71 million. For this category, encashment of the assistance will commence from the **second week of November 2020**, according to the specified SOP.

21. The Government would also like to remind the public that new applications for BPN 2.0 is open until 15 November 2020. For those whose applications have been approved, payments will be made in one lump sum in January 2021.
22. I would also like to announce that the **PRIHATIN Special Grant (GKP)** application has been closed on **31 October 2020**. Eligibility screening is underway. Eligible Micro SMEs will receive one-off assistance amounting to RM3,000 and the **payment will be made from 25 November 2020**.

REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES: BUDGET 2021 FEEDBACK

23. Alhamdulillah, the Government's efforts in generating employment opportunities and increasing the marketability of the workforce through the PRIHATIN, PENJANA and KITA PRIHATIN packages have continued to contribute to the declining national unemployment rate. **In September, the unemployment rate continued to decline to 4.6%, compared to 4.7% in August. This shows a consistent downward trend since 5.3% in May, which symbolizes the strengthening of the country's job market resilience.** In any case, efforts still need to be continued due to the volatility of the current situation.
24. As everyone is aware, last Friday I humbly presented the largest budget in the history of the country.
25. With the theme "**Teguh Kita, Menang Bersama**", this RM322.5 billion budget symbolizes the continuity of the Government's efforts, with three goals; the Rakyat's Well-Being, Business Continuity and Economic Resilience. I would like to comment on a few things.
26. First, for the B40; among the key initiatives include the Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat amounting to RM6.5 billion, which will benefit 8.1 million recipients. The Government also increased the minimum household wage to RM5,000 and reduced the minimum age for single recipients to 21 years to ensure more people are assisted.
27. The B40 group is also assisted with the extension of the automatic bank loan moratorium for 3 months, or the reduction of monthly installment payments by 50% for 6 months. They just need to inform the bank on which option is preferred. 8.1 million people will receive this benefit. This moratorium is also given to micro entrepreneurs who have a debt of less than RM150,000. This assistance will start in December 2020.

28. Secondly, the Government also listens to the people regarding the initiatives channelled to the M40 group. I would like to assure you that there are various dedicated initiatives, for example:
- a. Simplified bank loan repayment assistance, where they would only need to declare themselves to the bank on their income reduction. They do not need to submit documents to obtain the assistance.
 - b. I would also like to remind everyone that the extension of the moratorium and targeted bank assistance that has been implemented since 1 October 2020 is still in force; whereby those who lost their jobs can apply for an extension of the moratorium, and those with salary cuts can apply to reduce their monthly instalments. In fact, since 30 September, as many as 85% of borrowers have resumed their monthly payments of bank loans.
 - c. The Government has also reduced the income tax by a one percentage point for those with an annual income of between RM50,001 and RM70,000.
 - d. At the same time, the EPF contribution was also reduced from 11% to 9%, which will increase the monthly cash flow of the working class and expected to be worth RM9.3 billion.
 - e. In addition, there are many other assistance available for the M40, such as tax relief and rebates for medical services and goods, home appliances, education and skills upgrades, e-newspaper purchases, and so on.
29. Most importantly, the people are supported in terms of employment and skills improvement. Through the JanaKerja fund, RM3.7 billion is allocated to create 500,000 job opportunities. This will be implemented through programmes such as Penjana Kerjaya hiring incentives, skills improvement and retraining programmes, as well as the Wage Subsidy Programme.
30. Under the Penjana Kerjaya programme, the Government will pay 40% of the monthly salary, up to RM4,000; to encourage employers to hire employees. For the hiring of the differently abled or those who have been unemployed for a long time, the Government is paying 60% of the monthly salary, up to RM6,000. This assistance will be provided for 6 months and is worth more than RM2 billion.
31. All these initiatives need to be looked at thoroughly. In short, the Government's efforts for the M40 group are to increase disposable income, maintain employment, as well as boost income – either by improving skills or facilitating entrepreneurship.

CLOSING

32. The PRIHATIN, PRIHATIN SME+ PENJANA, and KITA PRIHATIN packages; and now Budget 2021, is proof that the Government will not compromise in protecting the people. Taking into account of the uncertainty of COVID-19, the Government is constantly monitoring and ready to act accordingly, wherever necessary. Rest assured, this Government is a caring Government.
33. In the blink of an eye, we have already conducted 28 Laksana Reports. I would like to take this opportunity to **thank the media** for helping me and the Ministry's staff in conveying accurate information on the Government's efforts to help the people, support businesses and revive the economy.
34. InsyaAllah, we will continue to work towards the achievement of the projected economic recovery by 2021. Let us work together for the sake of our beloved Malaysia. "Teguh Kita, Menang Bersama".

Wasaalamualikum WBT, thank you and stay safe.

YB Tengku Dato' Sri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance Malaysia
12 November 2020

APPENDIX 1 – PRITHATIN ACHIEVEMENTS

OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTING THE RAKYAT																																															
1.	i-Lestari Withdrawal Scheme under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF)	As of 30 October 2020, the cumulative withdrawal is RM11.18 billion (an increase from RM11.05 billion last week), involving 4.706 million recipients (an increase from 4.695 million recipients last week). Retirement planning is crucial, and the people are encouraged to utilise the free Retirement Advisory Service (RAS) provided by EPF. Information on this free service can be found at: https://www.kwsp.gov.my/ms/member/retirement-advisory-service .																																													
2.	Frontliners Allowance	a. As of 30 October 2020, a total of RM360.35 million has been channelled based on 1,088,936 claims comprising doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who have been directly involved in the management and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no change this week compared with last week as most claims are reported on a monthly basis. b. This special allowance is also extended to members of the military, police, customs, immigration, fire brigade, members of the Malaysia Civil Defence Force as well as RELA members who are directly involved in implementing the Movement Control Order (MCO).																																													
OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORTING BUSINESSES																																															
3.	EPF's COVID-19 Assistance Programme (e-CAP) for Employers	As of 30 October 2020, a total of 69,864 applications have been received and from that, 13,090 applications have been approved worth RM85 million (no increment). <table><tr><th>EPF's COVID-19 Assistance Programme (e-CAP) for Employers</th><th>Number of Applications Received*</th><th>Number of Approved Applications*</th><th>Approved Amount* (RM million)</th></tr><tr><td>30 October</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>85.0</td></tr><tr><td>23 October</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>85.0</td></tr><tr><td>16 October</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>85.0</td></tr><tr><td>9 October</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>85.0</td></tr><tr><td>2 October</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>85.0</td></tr><tr><td>25 September</td><td>69,864</td><td>13,090</td><td>84.9</td></tr><tr><td>28 August</td><td>68,532</td><td>12,904</td><td>84.2</td></tr><tr><td>31 July</td><td>65,986</td><td>12,425</td><td>82.1</td></tr><tr><td>26 June</td><td>36,107</td><td>9,542</td><td>63.9</td></tr><tr><td>31 May</td><td>26,509</td><td>5,245</td><td>34.8</td></tr></table> <i>*Cumulative Amount</i>		EPF's COVID-19 Assistance Programme (e-CAP) for Employers	Number of Applications Received*	Number of Approved Applications*	Approved Amount* (RM million)	30 October	69,864	13,090	85.0	23 October	69,864	13,090	85.0	16 October	69,864	13,090	85.0	9 October	69,864	13,090	85.0	2 October	69,864	13,090	85.0	25 September	69,864	13,090	84.9	28 August	68,532	12,904	84.2	31 July	65,986	12,425	82.1	26 June	36,107	9,542	63.9	31 May	26,509	5,245	34.8
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4.	BSN Micro Credit Scheme	As of 30 October 2020, payments have been made to 11,378 SMEs (an increase from 11,375 last week), involving a total of RM378.55 million (an increase from RM378.49 million last week).																																				
5.	TEKUN Programme	As of 30 October 2020, payments have been made to 26,233 SMEs (an increase from 26,231 SMEs last week) involving a total of RM199.38 million .																																				
6.	SME Soft Loans Funds Administered by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)	As of 30 October 2020, the total approved applications by local banks and accepted by SMEs is RM10.87 billion (an increase from RM10.84 billion last week) which will benefit 23,305 SMEs (an increase from 23,234 SMEs last week). This amount includes the Special Relief Facility (SRF), Automation & Digitalisation Facility (ADF), All-Economic Sector Facility (AES) and Agrofood Facility (AF) funds. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SME Soft Loans Funds</th><th>Approved and Accepted Amount* (RM billion)</th><th>Number of SMEs*</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>30 October</td><td>10.87</td><td>23,305</td></tr> <tr> <td>23 October</td><td>10.84</td><td>23,264</td></tr> <tr> <td>16 October</td><td>10.81</td><td>23,234</td></tr> <tr> <td>9 October</td><td>10.77</td><td>23,196</td></tr> <tr> <td>2 October</td><td>10.73</td><td>23,078</td></tr> <tr> <td>25 September</td><td>10.67</td><td>22,984</td></tr> <tr> <td>28 August</td><td>10.3</td><td>22,440</td></tr> <tr> <td>July</td><td>9.6</td><td>21,410</td></tr> <tr> <td>June</td><td>8.4</td><td>19,539</td></tr> <tr> <td>May</td><td>6.9</td><td>16,833</td></tr> <tr> <td>April</td><td>1.5</td><td>3,636</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <i>*Cumulative Amount</i> Although the SRF funds have been fully utilised, SMEs can still apply for available funding schemes under the BNM Funds such as ADF, AES and AF. SMEs can also acquire other funding via the imSME platform in the link https://imsme.com.my/portal/en/ that will help match the required funding by SMEs with multiple financial institutions.	SME Soft Loans Funds	Approved and Accepted Amount* (RM billion)	Number of SMEs*	30 October	10.87	23,305	23 October	10.84	23,264	16 October	10.81	23,234	9 October	10.77	23,196	2 October	10.73	23,078	25 September	10.67	22,984	28 August	10.3	22,440	July	9.6	21,410	June	8.4	19,539	May	6.9	16,833	April	1.5	3,636
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