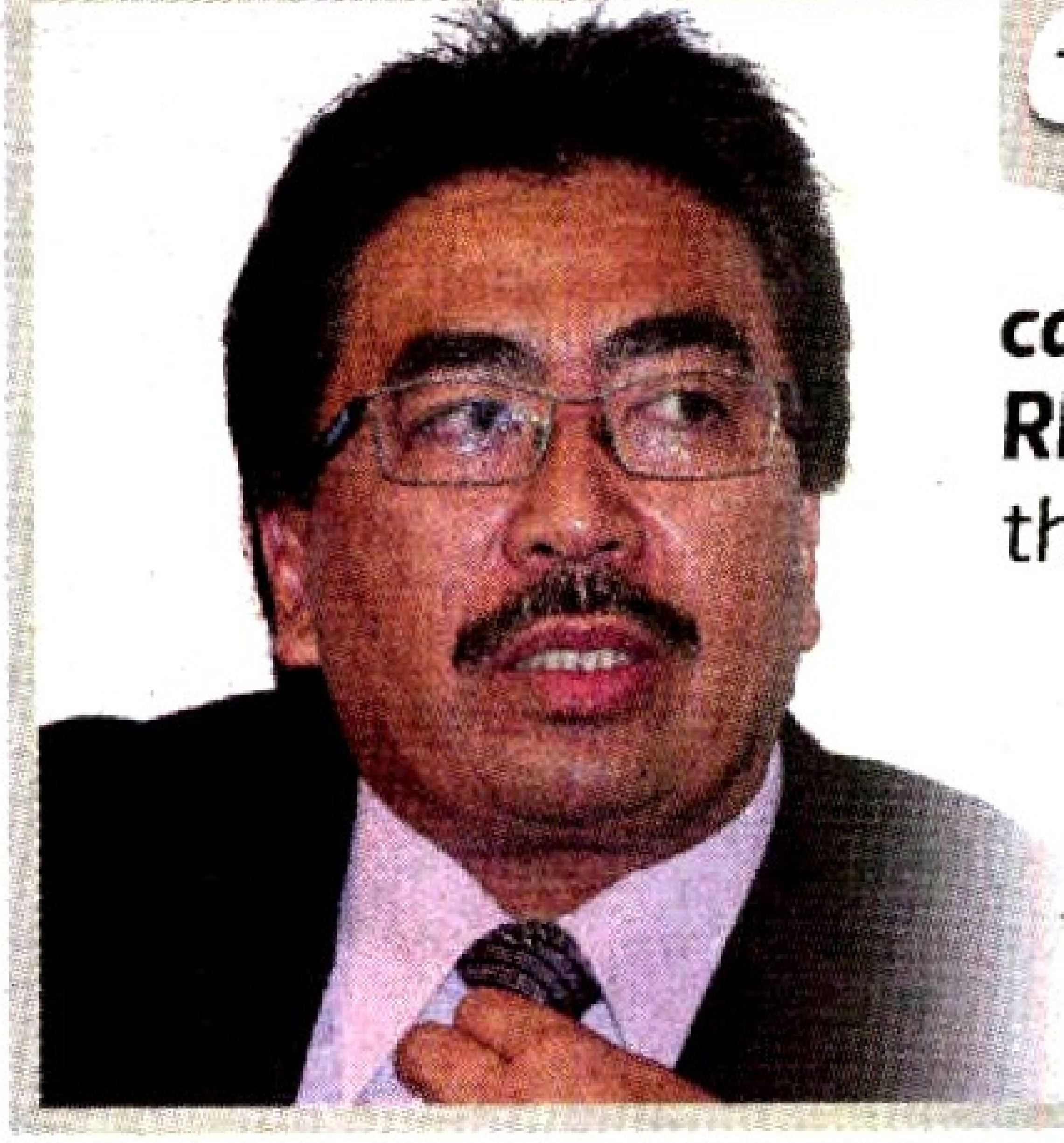

> The amount (in each account) **can be as little as RM1.60, but collectively,** the amount is large.

Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani
Deputy finance minister

'Some don't claim as amount is small'

KUALA LUMPUR: People are not bothering to claim their share from the RM5.3 billion in unclaimed monies as the amount that could be claimed by each person might not be much.

In some cases, claimants may have died and their beneficiaries are not aware of the money, findings by the Accountant-General Department show.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani said the monies were derived from insurance companies, banks and companies, some of which have ceased operation.

He said insurance companies that kept the data of dormant policyholders would submit the information to the government after a certain period of time.

"Monies surrendered by banks mostly came from individual savings and current accounts that have remained dormant for years.

"The amount (in each account) can be as little as RM1.60, but collectively, the amount is large."

"Unclaimed monies were also obtained from insurance companies as policyholders let their accounts be inactive for years as they stopped servicing their monthly payments.

"But, no matter how small the amount is, we still have to return the money to the respective owners," said Johari, adding that the monies were kept in AmanahRaya, which is controlled by the government.

Those who wish to submit their claim can do so at Accountant-General Department's offices nationwide.

"Each claim must be substantiated with valid documentation. We are very thorough as we don't want forgeries.

"For instance, you must get a confirmation letter from the entities that owe you," said Johari, adding that after 15 years, the unclaimed monies go to the government.