

# BR1M to provide skills training

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) programme will be enhanced in the future to benefit the lower-income group further, and will see the lower-income group be equipped with skills to enhance their earning capacity.

Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said the upgrade would include establishing training programmes to improve recipients' earning ability.

"Through training programmes, recipients will be given exposure to seek better job opportunities and improve their standard of living."

He said the government was not only keen to deliver financial aid to alleviate the lower-income group's financial burden, but also to deliver initiatives to boost their standard of living.

"We hope after training, these recipients will be able to earn well and move from the low-income group to the middle-income group," he said

at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's 11th National Economic Conference yesterday.

Irwan said the move was in the planning stages and would be implemented soon.

BR1M, which was established in 2012, distributes cash aid to low-income households.

Meanwhile, on the proposed national health insurance scheme, Irwan said it was now in its final stages of discussion.

"It will be introduced in the 2017 Budget once all the discussions and fine-tuning have been completed."

Irwan said it had been presented to the National Economic Council and other related agencies to set up and manage health insurances so that the low-income group can receive better health services.

"The scheme will also ease the government's burden of spending more than RM20million for medicine," he said.