



BR1M-Uber scheme in the works

> B40 group may use aid to buy Proton Iriz, sign up as e-hailing drivers

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PUTRAJAYA: People in the bottom 40% income (B40) group who have yet to own a car, will soon be able to get Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) assistance to purchase a vehicle and sign up as Uber drivers.

Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said the government is currently negotiating with Proton, Uber and Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) to finalise details.

Under the scheme, people in the B40 group (with a household income of below RM3,855) will be able to buy a Proton Iriz, with their BR1M contribution being used as deposit, while Proton provides a RM4,000 discount for the vehicle.

The car owner then has to sign up as a driver with Uber, which will deduct the monthly instalments for the car to be paid to the financier of the loan.

"It will be implemented by this year," Mohd Irwan said yesterday.

"It will help those from the B40

group to achieve income that would put them in the M40 group," he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak had, in tabling Budget 2017 last October, announced that a downpayment for a vehicle can be made using BR1M, with a rebate of RM4,000 being provided for the purchase of a Proton Iriz.

He said the government is also currently looking for a better mechanism to implement BR1M, including using it for skills training to help the low income group achieve higher salaries.

Mohd Irwan dismissed claims that the country's economy was getting weaker, adding that they were just perceptions created by certain quarters.

While stressing that the economy remains strong, he said certain groups and alternative media agencies were publishing stories that made the country look as if it was in trouble, and that such inaccurate news was hurting the economy.

"I was in San Francisco and London recently, and people asked me whether we were in turmoil. I said no, and that certain things people are writing are not true. We need to correct the perception," he said.



Mohd Irwan showing printouts of a slides presentation on the country's economy.