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The Star - BR1M Comes In Handy For Millions

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BR1M COMES IN HANDY FOR MILLIONS

PETALING JAYA: Zaimi Sabtu barely earns enough to cover his family's monthly expenses.

Working as a clerk for a private company, he only earns about RM1,500 and towards the middle of each month, he struggles to make ends meet.

At times, his wife Noor Zuriaty Rani will resort to taking up part-time jobs to support the expenses of their three schoolgoing children – two boys and a girl aged 12, 13 and 15 respectively.

"Basic necessities don't come cheap nowadays and prices of certain items are also on the rise due to various factors.

"In 2012, our situation started to improve slightly. We got some extra cash to spend on sundries and groceries, thanks to the Government," recalled Zaimi.

That year, the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) scheme was introduced as a direct cash aid, disbursed to Malaysians who meet certain criteria.

All households with a monthly income of RM3,000 and below were eligible for a one-off sum of RM500.



Helping the people: A file photo of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak giving out BR1M vouchers in Pekan, Pahang.

According to records, a total of 4.2 million recipients benefited from the aid in 2012, involving a sum of RM2.1bil.

The following year, BR1M 2.0 was introduced and expanded to cover single working adults aged 21 and above with a monthly salary of RM2,000, who were given RM250.

This payout involved a disbursement of RM2.9bil from the Government's coffers for 6.8 million recipients.

Then came BR1M 3.0, with some seven million people entitled for the aid.

The one-off payment was further raised to RM650 for households earning RM3,000 and below, while those with an income of between RM3,001 and RM4,000 were allotted RM450.

Single individuals earning RM2,000 a month got RM300. In 2015, the amount was increased to RM950 and RM750 respectively. Single working

adults got an extra RM50.

This exercise saw RM5.3bil set aside to benefit a total of 7.4 million recipients.

Last year, the Government revised the aid for households to RM1,000 and RM600 respectively, while single individuals received RM400 each.

In addition, a new category was introduced which saw those in the e-Kash database given RM1,050 each.

In all, BR1M 5.0 resulted in the



Zaimi: Uses BR1M money to buy groceries.

Government disbursing RM5.4bil to 7.3 million recipients.

For BR1M 6.0 this year, households with RM3,000 and below were given RM1,200.

Those earning up to RM4,000 got RM900, while single adults took home RM450. The payout involved seven million households, amounting to RM6.8bil.

Zaimi, 39, is one of the millions of eligible Malaysians for this scheme. He was among the first to apply shortly after it was announced in 2012 and has been getting it yearly ever since.

Zaimi said he felt grateful and blessed to receive the aid.

"Without it, I would still be struggling. Now, at least my financial burden has lessened. I hope this cash aid will continue for many more years to help those in the same situation as me," he added.

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