



New Straits Times - Welfare Organisations Share 2018 Budget Wish List

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COST OF LIVING ISSUES

Welfare organisations share 2018 Budget wish list

KUALA LUMPUR: Welfare organisations and old folks home operators have urged the government to review the poverty line, besides increasing government subsidies for care centres and single parents.

Persatuan Wanita dan Ibu Tunggal Nur Iman Kuala Lumpur and Selangor president Sheilla Tukimin said the government, through the 2018 Budget, should help relieve the financial burden of single mothers and senior citizens.

"There are many senior citizens who are left behind by their



Sheilla Tukimin

children without any money to pay for food and medical bills.

"We hope the government introduces a skills programme for those aged 60 and above so that they can find work and earn some money," she said yesterday.

She also said the government should review the criteria to allow more single mothers to be eligible for the e-Kasih aid.

"In urban areas, single mothers with an income of RM1,000 or RM1,500 find it difficult to support their family.

"The Welfare Department cur-

rently only allows single mothers with an income of below RM750 to apply for e-Kasih."

Sheilla also requested the government to make existing upskilling courses for single mothers free.

"The fee for one course is RM50 but some mothers are unable to afford it.

"We hope the government can remove the fee to encourage more single mothers to join these upskilling courses."

Meanwhile, Persatuan Saiva Siddhanta Malaysia, which runs two welfare homes - Rumah Kebajikan Anbu Ilam for boys and



Mohd Azmi Md Zain

Rumah Kebajikan Karunai Ilam for girls - said it was surviving on public donations and government funding.

Its president, N. Thiruvassagam, said the funds received were sometimes insufficient for their daily operations.

"The cost of running both homes is about RM12,000 a month. The financial assistance we receive only covers half of the total expenditure.

"I appeal to the government to increase the grants for welfare homes because of the rise in the cost of living."

Rumah Kebajikan Al-Fikrah



Malaysia said the funds they received from the Social Welfare Department and zakat centres were insufficient.

The home's president, Mohd Azmi Md Zain, said this was due to the increase in the number of senior citizens under its care.

"With groceries becoming pricier, I hope the government will give welfare homes more subsidies to buy essential items.

"We cannot depend on contributions from the public alone," said Azmi, adding that his centre housed more than 70 residents.

He said the centre spent between RM1,200 and RM1,500 a day on medical expenses alone.

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Contact Us

Ministry of Finance Malaysia
No. 5 Persiaran Perdana Presint 2,
Federal Government Administrative Centre,
62592 WP PUTRAJAYA



☎ 03-8000 8000

📅 03-88823893 / 03-88823894

✉ [pro\[at\]treasury\[dot\]gov\[dot\]my](mailto:pro[at]treasury[dot]gov[dot]my)



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