

# Govt announces RM10b Kita Prihatin package

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KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 23): The government will implement several initiatives and additional assistance under the RM10 billion Prihatin Supplementary Initiative Package (Kita Prihatin) in line with its efforts to boost economic recovery.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the additional package includes the RM7 billion Bantuan Prihatin Nasional 2.0 (BPN 2.0), the RM2.4 billion Wage Subsidy Programme 2.0 and the RM600 million Prihatin Special Grant (GKP) worth RM600 million.

He said the Kita Prihatin package targets four main groups, namely the bottom 40% income group (B40) who are married and single; M40 group with family and who are single; local workers in various fields and micro-traders in various fields.

“Since the beginning, the government has been focused on being a caring administration — a government that not only understands the problems faced by the people but also acts quickly and effectively to overcome the challenges that threaten the prosperity of the nation.

“The government needs to be caring during this time of need for Malaysians, especially given the current challenging period,” he said while announcing the Kita Prihatin package today.

The Kita Prihatin package is an extension of previous economic stimulus packages, namely Prihatin, Prihatin SME Plus (for small and medium enterprises) and Penjana worth a total of RM295 billion, or about 20% of the nation’s gross domestic product (GDP), with an additional fiscal injection by the government totalling RM45 billion.

Muhyiddin said the decision to provide additional cash handouts under BPN 2.0 is in consideration of the ongoing difficulties faced by the people as industries such as tourism and aviation are taking a longer time to recover from effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, the implementation of the Wage Subsidy Programme 2.0 aims to provide assistance to employers and employees who are still facing difficulties during the economic recovery period despite signs of a recovery in the job market.

“Under the Prihatin and Prihatin SME Plus packages, the government has provided a total allocation of RM15.3 billion to fund the Wage Subsidy Pro-



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gramme for up to 3.3 million workers.

“As at Sept 11, 2020, a total of 2.63 million workers and 321,000 employers had benefited from the Wage Subsidy Programme, involving an expenditure of RM10.4 billion,” he said.

The prime minister added that the government had agreed to reopen applications for the GKP from Oct 1 to 31, 2020 to ensure that more micro-businesses — which are eligible but have not yet availed themselves to the GKP — are able to obtain the financial assistance.

He said the latest figures from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) revealed encouraging developments in economic indicators, such as the unemployment rate, manufacturing index, consumption index and others.

“The Ministry of Finance (MoF) will closely monitor measures to empower the people, support businesses and strengthen the economy to ensure the country’s economic recovery continues.

“My Cabinet colleagues and I are always open to receiving feedback from the public in order to ensure the effectiveness of the measures implemented by the government in alleviating the people’s burden,” Muhyiddin said.

He added that after the announcement of each economic stimulus package, the government will monitor the implementation for areas that can be further strength-

ened, and continuous improvements are made to ensure that no citizen is left out from receiving assistance.

“The amount to be channelled under BPN 2.0 is RM1,000 each to 3.7 million B40 households, RM500 to 3.8 million single people in B40, RM600 to nearly 1.4 million M40 households, and RM300 to 1.7 million singles in the M40 group.

“The BPN 2.0 payment will be made in two instalments, the first at the end of October 2020 and the second in January 2021. For the B40 group, the first instalment payment of RM700 will be made this October and the second payment of RM300 in January 2021,” he said.

With the announcement, Muhyiddin hopes that the groups involved could feel some relief in meeting their households’ daily expenses.

The government on March 27 announced the BPN of RM9.24 billion under the Prihatin Economic Stimulus Package (Prihatin) to ensure that no group would be neglected.

Previously, the BPN payment was RM1,600 for those with a monthly household income of RM4,000 or below, RM1,000 for household income of RM4,001 to RM8,000, RM800 for singles earning RM2,000 or below, and RM500 for singles earning RM2,001 to RM4,000 per month.

# Targeted wage subsidy programme introduced

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KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 23): The government is introducing a Targeted Wage Subsidy Programme to assist employers and employees in certain sectors which are still affected economically by Covid-19, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

To be open for applications from Oct 1 to Dec 31 this year, the programme was expected to benefit 1.3 million workers and estimated to involve RM2.4 billion, he said when announcing the Prihatin Supplementary Initiative Package (Kita Prihatin) today.

This initiative follows the Wage Subsidy Programme launched earlier under the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package, which is set to end on Sept 30.

For the Targeted Wage Subsidy Programme, wage subsidies will be given to employers that are still affected, namely companies that since the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) still face lower revenues of at least 30% compared to last year.

The wage subsidy will be given for up to three months at a rate of RM600 per month for each employee, with a maximum of 200 employees per company.

Muhyiddin said based on feedback he received on the Wage Subsidy Programme, there were those who were not eligible to receive it as they did not meet the eligibility requirements of being registered with the

Social Security Organisation (SOCSO) prior to April 1, 2020.

“To ensure this group is not left behind, the Targeted Wage Subsidy Programme will be open for companies registered with SOCSO prior to Sept 1, 2020.

“For new applicants who have not received the wage subsidy prior to this, they will now be eligible to receive the wage subsidy for up to six months,” Muhyiddin said.

The prime minister said the Wage Subsidy Programme introduced during the Movement Control Order period had provided assistance to employers without requiring small companies to show loss of revenue to be eligible.

“With the transition to the implementation of the RMCO, most companies are now able to operate and conduct business actively,” he added.

KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 23): The government will reopen applications for the Prihatin Special Grant (GKP) from Oct 1 to 31, 2020, with an allocation of about RM600 million.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the reopening of this initiative for new applications is expected to benefit more than 200,000 micro-businesses.

“During my visits and interaction with entrepreneurs at the grassroots level, I received complaints that some entrepreneurs did not receive the assistance as they were not able to apply within the stipulated time.

“There were also those who did not meet the requirement of having a registered business prior to Jan 1, 2020,” he said when announcing the Prihatin Supplementary Initiative Package (Kita Prihatin) today.

# Prihatin Special Grant to reopen for applications with allocation of RM600m — PM

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In addition, the government has also agreed to open GKP applications to micro-traders registered or holding a business licence with the Companies Commission

of Malaysia (SSM) or local authorities until Aug 31, 2020.

He said payments are targeted to be made from Nov 25.

Muhyiddin said under the Additional Prihatin SME Economic Stimulus Package (Prihatin SME Plus) for small and medium enterprises, the government provided the GKP to ease micro-entrepreneurs’ financial burden due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Applications for the GKP were opened from May 1 to May 15, 2020, with an assistance amount of RM3,000 per micro-entrepreneur, benefiting 545,000 petty traders nationwide.

Muhyiddin added that for this purpose, the government had disbursed a total of RM1.63 billion.