

KERATAN AKHBAR

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People's facilities initiative launched

RM500M ALLOCATION

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PUTRAJAYA: The Economy Ministry launched the People's Facilities Initiative (IKR), with an allocation of RM500 million, to finance the implementation of small infrastructure projects in local areas, said minister Rafizi Ramli.

He said the initiative was federal government aid aimed at democratising government funds in financing the implementation of small projects, such as repairing halls or damaged roads, which will be regulated by the state governments and local authorities.

The initiative is subject to a number of criteria, among which, the small projects applied for should provide immediate benefit to the community, the cost should not exceed RM200,000 and the project should not overlap with those which have received allocation approval from other agencies, he said.

"Maintenance projects are getting fewer allocations lately because allocations are focused on debt repayments, big projects. So where do you cut first? Maintenance."

"That's why with the initiative, the Economy Ministry is allocating more funds for maintenance, which will have an immediate impact on the people and public facilities," Rafizi said on Tuesday.

He said at least 2,500 small projects could be implemented through the initiative, and their implementation would be closely monitored, with the allocation increased if necessary.

"The initiative also aims to help small contractors nationwide, who can complete the project between two and three months," he said.

Small public infrastructure project assistance, for new or renovation projects, can be applied through <https://ikr.ekonomi.gov.my/>. **Bernama**



Rafizi Ramli