

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Rafizi announces RM100mil allocation to scale-up Farming Entrepreneur Initiative



Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said the allocation will be channelled to five national corridors and two state economic development corporations (PKEN) through Request For Proposals (RFP) from the selected private companies. - NSTP/ASWADI ALIAS.

PUTRAJAYA: The government will allocate RM100 million for the scale-up of the Farming Entrepreneur Initiative (Intan) under the People's Income Initiative (IPR) programme through private companies.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said the allocation will be channelled to five national corridors and two state economic development corporations (PKEN) through Request For Proposals (RFP) from the selected private companies.

He said the scale-up of the programme would help address the issues faced by the food security industry while eliminating hardcore poverty in the country.

"By inviting private companies to become the government's strategic partners, the new model for IPR-Intan could enhance agricultural projects among the public, especially the poor and hardcore poor nationwide.

"Meanwhile, the selection of the private companies through the RFP will be based on several criteria, including having vast experience in agricultural projects, strong financial ability as well as good management structure," he told a press conference at the ministry's headquarters, today.

At the same time, Rafizi added that the allocation would be given based on the land area provided by the corridor authorities and state development corporations.

This involves RM120 million each to the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC), the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) and Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) and RM90 million each to the Sabah Economic Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA) and Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA).

Meanwhile, Iskandar Malaysia and the Negri Sembilan State Development Corporation (PKNS) will receive RM30 million each.

Commenting further, Rafizi said interested private companies must train selected participants in technical entrepreneurship aspects, project management and financial management.

He said among components for private companies is to also submit a proposal containing a long-term plan and a project proposal including scope and implementation method.

"The participants must also be provided with a contract to ensure their rights of relevant parties are protected while ensuring that the participants receive a guaranteed income of at least RM2,000 per month.

"Following this, ECERDC and NCIA will publish the RFP papers for several project locations set to take place in mid-September, while the appointment of the selected companies is to be made before November 2023."