

Headline	'IT 'S NOT JUST ABOUT FOOD BASKETS'		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	26 Jul 2021	Language	English
Circulation	36,278	Readership	108,834
Section	Local News	Page No	10
ArticleSize	360 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 37,229		



BIGGER MEANING

'IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT FOOD BASKETS'

Bakul Prihatin Negara enables govt to identify people in need and devise more plans, says Rina

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Bakul Prihatin Negara programme is not just about food aid, but also serves as the impetus for delving further into the problems and issues faced by the community.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun said the programme also serves as an opportunity for the authorities to establish those who need help and formulate further plans to assist them.



Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun speaking to reporters after visiting a Bakul Prihatin Negara recipient at Setapak Jaya in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"It's not only about distributing food baskets. It also enables us to view the community closer, especially those who have been left jobless. We can also check on spe-

cific cases which I can later refer to the right authorities for help based on their needs.

"This (aid) is not just about food baskets, but carries an ever bigger

meaning," she said.

She was speaking to reporters after distributing aid in the Klang Valley yesterday.

Rina said her ministry would also work in tandem with the relevant parties to ensure that the people received aid in line with their respective needs.

"We cannot work alone. As a caring government, we will work with various quarters.

"If there are those who need help with business, for example, we will refer them to the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry as well as other related agencies."

She said the distribution of the Bakul Prihatin Negara food baskets is accompanied by counselors, who will guide and motivate the aid recipients to help them face the challenging period.

Meanwhile, Rina said that up to Saturday, a total of 314,749 people had applied for Bakul Prihatin Negara aid from the Welfare De-

partment. Applications were opened to the public on July 19.

She said aid has been dispensed to 11,740 people, involving 40,410 households nationwide.

She also called on the corporate sector to donate to the Bakul Prihatin Negara programme and help those who have been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rina said that to date, five corporate bodies have collectively donated RM16 million to the programme.

The five, she said, were Petronas, AEON Co (M) Bhd, Pharmaniaga Bhd, **Tenaga Nasional Bhd** and Telekom Malaysia.

"The level of care demonstrated by these corporations in stepping up to help efforts to channel aid to the people is most appreciated.

"I hope that they can serve as examples and spur others to also contribute," she said. **Bernama**