

PEMULIH PACKAGE

PAKEJ PERLINDUNGAN RAKYAT DAN PEMULIHAN EKONOMI (PEMULIH): AN AID PACKAGE WORTH MYR150 BILLION HAS BEEN UNVEILED BY THE GOVERNMENT UNDER PHASE ONE OF THE NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN (NRP).

1 Continuing the welfare agenda for the people

i) Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat (BPR)

- Additional MYR500 for Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat (BPR) for the month of July. Payments to be made from 29 June 2021.
- The third phase of the BPR between MYR100 and MYR1,400 will be paid in September as well as payments for those with successful appeals.

ii) Bantuan Khas Covid-19 (BKC)

- Bantuan Khas Covid-19 (BKC) initiative for several categories.
 - a) Households of hardcore poor will receive MYR500 in August, MYR500 in November and MYR300 in December. Meanwhile, singles from this category will receive MYR200 in August and MYR300 in November.
 - b) B40 households will receive MYR500 in August and MYR300 in December. Meanwhile, singles from this category will receive MYR200 in August.
 - c) M40 households will receive MYR250 while singles in this category will receive MYR100 in August.

iii) Loss of Income Assistance

- In October, MYR500 will be channeled to workers who had lost their income based on the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Social Security Organisation's (SOCSSO) data this year.

iv) Job-Seeking Allowance

- For SOCSSO non-contributors, especially new graduates, school-leavers and informal sector workers who are registered under MyFutureJobs are set to receive at least a MYR300 allowance.

v) Place and Train initiative

- Allocation of MYR125 million through the Human Resource Development Corporation to implement the Place and Train initiative under the Janapreneur program especially for school-leavers and graduates.

vi) Food Basket Initiative

- Allocation of MYR300,000 to Members of Parliament to deliver Food Basket Assistance to affected groups in their respective constituency.
- Additional MYR10 million is allocated for Food Basket Initiative specifically for Orang Asli.

vii) Living Cost Assistance

- Allocation of MYR1 billion to ensure that the price of 1kg polybags of cooking oil remains at MYR2.50.
- The retail price for RON95 petrol, diesel, and LPG will be maintained, which is expected to involve subsidies of MYR6 billion this year.
- Price control program based on the threshold value of crude palm oil will be carried out to control the price of 1kg to 5kg of cooking oil bottles.

viii) Non-governmental organizations

- MYR15 million will be allocated to non-governmental organizations to help social issues such as mental health, homelessness, and others.

ix) Electricity Discount

- A discount on electricity bills of between 5% and 40% up to a maximum usage of 900 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a month will be given. This includes a 40% discount for usage that is below 200kWh, and 15% discount for usage that is between 201kWh and 300kWh a month. This discount will be enforced for three months starting from July 2021.

- Economic sectors that have been badly hit – particularly hotel operators, theme park operators, convention centers, shopping malls and tour operators – will get a three-month extension of electricity bill discounts of 10% from October to December 2021.

x) Internet Access

- Telecommunications companies have agreed to extend the 1GB of daily free data until the end of the year.

xi) Mobile Banks

- Allocation of MYR18 million for local banks to provide about 30 units of mobile banks in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, which are expected to cover 250 rural localities.

2 Supporting business continuity

i) Prihatin Special Grant (GKP) 4.0

- Micro-SMEs will be receiving additional assistance of MYR500 in September and MYR500 in November.

ii) Wage Subsidy Scheme 4.0

- The government will support up to 500 workers per employer with assistance of MYR600 per worker for four months. This will be two months for every sector in the second phase of the National Recovery Plan, and another two months for the sectors categorized as negative in the third phase of the NRP. There are no salary limit conditions.

iii) HRD Levy Exemption

- The government will automatically exempt payments for the HRD levy for two months to employers who are not able to operate during phase one of the recovery plan.
- Employers from new sectors as a result of the expansion of the Human Resources Development Fund Act 2001 will be given a levy extension under 31 December 2021.

iv) PenjanaKerjaya Programme 3.0

- Extension of PenjanaKerjaya programme with several improvements:
 - a) the salary eligibility limit from MYR1,500 to MYR1,200 ringgit for the "Malaysianisation" programme to give more incentives to employers to replace foreign workers with local workers.
 - b) The employment contract period will also be reduced from 12 months to six months for employees aged 50 and above, the disabled and former prisoners.

v) Small Entrepreneur Digitalisation Empowerment Programme (PUPUK)

- To support the digitalisation agenda and promote cashless transactions, the government has developed PUPUK as a comprehensive initiative to which it will allocate MYR200 million for micro-SMEs and MYR100 million for SME.

vi) Creative Arts Industry

- Allocation of MYR100 million to cover incentives for production, digital content, job opportunities, upskilling programmes, and protection initiatives under PERKESO as well as the acquisition of products for production purposes in television, radio and song creation.

vii) Special Assistance for Child Care Center

- Allocation of MYR3000 to over 4,440 Child Care Centers.

INFORMATION SOURCE

TRANSLATED PEMULIH SPEECH TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN DELIVERED ON 28 JUNE 2021

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2 Supporting business continuity- Cont'd

viii) Financial Aid for Registered Canteen Operators

- Financial Aid of MYR1000 will be given to all registered canteen operators

ix) Businesses in Sports Industry

- One-off assistance of MYR3,000 to businesses in the sports industry such as gyms, bowling and futsal operators.

x) Assistance for Disabled Persons

- Financial assistance of MYR500 a month for three months for unemployed persons with disabilities (PwD) or those who are not Disabled Workers' Allowance recipients.

xi) MARA Entrepreneurs

- A three-month payment deferment of their business loans and seek a rescheduling of loan repayment of up to 36 months.
- MARA will also extend a 30% discount on the rental of MARA business premises for another five months until December 2021.

xii) Micro-Credit Payment

- There will be an additional allocation of MYR1.1 billion through a micro-credit payment scheme by BSN (MYR500 million), TEKUN Nasional (MYR100 million), and Agrobank (MYR500 million).

xiii) Tourism Industry

- Over 5300 registered travel agencies will receive a MYR3,000 one-off payment.

xiv) Tourism and Services Tax

- Postponement of monthly income tax instalment payments for companies and waiver of tourism, services taxes for hotel operators until year-end.

xv) i-Citra

- EPF members can make withdrawals of up to MYR5,000 with a fixed payment rate of MYR1,000 per month for five months, subject to the member's total EPF savings.
- Applicants may apply via i-Citra online portal from 15 July 2021.

xvi) Education Loan Repayment

- Six-month postponement for repayment of JPA federal student loans; similar postponement for federal scholarship recipients' compensation claims.
- Targeted moratorium for three months for PTPTN borrowers.
- For MARA loan, they can defer their loan repayments for three months, or reschedule their monthly instalments for as low as MYR100 for 12 months.
- Those with Skills Development Fund Corporation (PTPK) loans can defer them for three months.

xvii) Insurance & Takaful

- Insurance and takaful policy holders affected by the pandemic could apply for deferment of payment of insurance premiums and takaful contributions until 31 December 2021.

xiv) Six-month Automatic Moratorium

- A six-month automatic moratorium for all borrowers, regardless if they are from the B40, M40 or T20 groups or SMEs. Borrowers will only need to apply and approval will be given automatically by the banks. It will be open from 7 July 2021.

3 Increasing Vaccination

i) Additional Vaccines Supply

- MYR400 million will be allocated for the purchase of additional vaccines, which would be able to cover 130% of the population compared to 120% coverage previously.

ii) Vaccination Centres

- The government will open another 29 vaccination centres to upgrade the existing centres, set up more drive-through centres as well as more home-to-home outreach programmes with an allocation of MYR200 million.

iii) Daily Allowance for Healthcare Volunteers

- Daily allowance which have been increased to MYR100 from MYR50 will be given healthcare volunteers that is involved in the Covid-19 vaccination process and management.

iv) Special Allowance for Frontlines

- The government would increase the special allowance of frontliners involved in NIP from MYR200 a month to MYR600 for six months beginning July.

v) Public-Private Partnership Covid-19 Industry Immunisation (PIKAS)

- MYR150 million has been allocated to encourage the implementation and to assist the companies.
 - a) Companies registered under the Human Resource Development (HRD) can utilise the current levy balance of up to 10% for the cost of management and purchase of Covid-19 vaccine.
 - b) The government agreed to give tax deductions to employers for expenses involving medical equipment and for the setting up of vaccine centres.

vi) Subsidy for Vaccination Expenses

- Subsidy of MYR30 will be provided for the cost of taxi and e-hailing fares for the disabled and the elderly, so that they can get their vaccinations on the appointment day.

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