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STATEMENT FROM YB DATO' ABDUL RAHMAN DAHLAN

Subject : Statement on New Village Issue

Recent statements by certain parties on funding to new villages are inaccurate. The issue is mainly an administrative procedure, and one that should not be politicized.

Let me reiterate that the government must look at the possibility of introducing alternative methodologies to dispense projects in new villages (Kampung-kampung Baru). This is due to the absence of Village Security and Development Committees (Jawatankuasa Keselamatan dan Pembangunan Kampung, JKK) at these villages, a consequence of MCA policy in choosing to not be in the Government after the 13th General Election.

In the absence of JKKs, the best alternative to dispense and monitor allocations is via the local councils. The allocation for this year amounting RM55 million has been 95 percent utilized up till August 2013. Allegations that the allocation to these new villages have been cut to punish the Chinese, is thus unfounded.

The reshuffle of officers within the New Village Development Division, Jabatan Kerajaan Tempatan is an internal ministry matter. Reshuffling of officers is common practice to maximize staff utilization and increase efficiency.

Thus, the DAP should stop making unfounded assumptions for political gain. Let us all focus on nation-building in conjunction with Malaysia Day, to commemorate the golden jubilee of the formation of our beloved country.

Dato' Abdul Rahman Dahlan

Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government