

Sarawak govt assists SMEs through BKSS packages

KUCHING: The state government has extended various forms of assistance under the Sarawakku Sayang Special Assistance (BKSS) to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) affected by COVID-19.

International Trade and Industry, Industrial Terminal and Entrepreneur Development Assistant Minister, Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais said the special assistance was in line with the PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package and National Economic Recovery Plan (PENJANA) implemented by the Federal government.

He was replying to questions from Aidel Lariwoo (GPS-Sadong Jaya) and Ripin Lamat (GPS-Lambir) on the state government's efforts and initiatives in helping small and medium entrepreneurs affected by the

COVID-19 pandemic, at the state assembly sitting here today.

Mohd Naroden said the BKSS aid for these entrepreneurs was both monetary and non-monetary, comprising an additional RM20 million for SME credit schemes and deferment of Small and Medium Scale Industry Financing Scheme (SPIKS) and Sarawak Micro Credit Scheme (SMCS) loan repayments from March until Dec 2020.

In addition he said, the state government also provides interest subsidies for SPIKS, SMCS and Special Relief Fund, special grant of RM2,250 for hawkers registered with local authorities, RM500 one-off payment for e-hailing drivers, driving instructors and boat operators, RM600 one-time payment for taxi, van and school bus operators and

RM1,500 one-time payment for registered tourist and national park guides.

Meanwhile, Local Government and Housing Assistant Minister, Dr Annuar Rapaee, in reply to a question from Datuk Idris Buang (GPS-Muara Tuang) said, to upgrade the hemodialysis centre at Sarawak Heart Centre, Kota Samarahan, the state government would provide five more hemodialysis machines.

He said the centre would be equipped with 20 units with the additional machines adding that this would enable the centre to cope with the increasing number of kidney patients in Samarahan area. In addition, he said the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is also planning to set up a hemodialysis facility in Kota Samarahan. — Bernama