

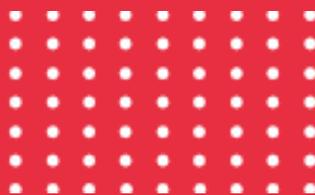


KEMENTERIAN SUMBER MANUSIA

“

# KERATAN AKHBAR KESUMA”

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## LINDUNG SCHEMES

# Perkeso to study equal protection for formal, gig workers

**SUNGAI BULOH:** The Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) has been directed to carry out a feasibility study to create equal social protection under the LINDUNG Pekerja scheme and LINDUNG Kendiri scheme.

The former covers workers who are formally employed whereas the latter is for casual workers.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan said this was to ensure “portability” of coverage as workers moved across different sectors of employment.

“We want to ensure that the LINDUNG Pekerja and LINDUNG Kendiri schemes carry equal value.

“This is the true meaning of social justice and the Madani principles we have long championed, and it will be translated into all government policies,” he said after launching the 2026 Kesuma Perkeso Lindung Chinese New Year celebration here yesterday.

Present were his deputy Datuk

Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, ministry secretary-general Datuk Azman Mohd Yusof, Perkeso board chairman Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal and Perkeso group chief executive officer Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed.

Ramanan highlighted Perkeso’s performance last year, which saw benefits totalling RM6.65 billion disbursed across four acts administered by the statutory agency.

At yesterday’s event, Perkeso channelled over RM318,000 in benefits to 15 contributors and beneficiaries under the LINDUNG Pekerja, LINDUNG Kerjaya, LINDUNG Kendiri and LINDUNG Kasih schemes.

A hundred orphans, who were heirs of contributors and beneficiaries, were also honoured at the event, while 40 widows and widowers of contributors received food hampers.

Additionally, RM10,000 each was allocated to 10 NGOs in Sungai Buloh to help facilitate their operations.

By GERARD GIMINO  
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## PERKESO PAYOUTS HIT RM6.65BIL AS WORKER PROTECTION EXPANDS

**SUNGAI BULOH:** Social Security Organisation (PERKESO) payouts rose to RM6.65bil last year, reaching more than 1.15 million beneficiaries nationwide, said Datuk Seri R. Ramanan.

The Human Resources Minister said the payouts last year increased by almost 10% compared to 2024 (RM6.1bil).

"More importantly, we are seeing an increase in the number of contributors. The Gig Workers Act is also set to be enforced in March, providing a greater safety net for all," he said at the KESUMA PERKESO Lindung Chinese New Year 2026 celebrations here yesterday.

Ramanan also noted other policy reforms that are set to be implemented this year.

This includes a round-the-clock social security initiative known as Lindung 24 Jam by PERKESO as well as the Traveller Scheme under the Lindung Kendiri initiative.

Lindung 24 Jam is an expansion of PERKESO's Employment Injury Scheme to protect employees against work-related accidents or occupational diseases.

PERKESO, he said, has also been instructed to carry out a feasibility study in regards to protection under the formal and informal sector.

"It aligns with the government's ambition to ensure continuity in contributions alongside protection in the workplace, regardless of job sectors.

"We want to ensure the Lindung Pekerja and Lindung



Ramanan (centre) presenting a mock cheque to a representative of one of the charitable bodies during the KESUMA PERKESO Lindung Chinese New Year 2026 celebration yesterday, as (from left) Subahan, Mohd Shahrin, Azman, Lembah Jaya assemblyman Syed Ahmad Syed Abdul Rahman Alhadad, Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman Mohd Kamri Kamaruddin and Mohammed Azman look on. — ART CHEN/The Star

Kendiri schemes truly have the same value.

"This is the true meaning of social justice through the Madani principles," he said.

Ramanan further expressed the ministry and PERKESO's commitment to proactively improve the welfare of workers, including the 3.26 million informal sector workers and 1.2 million gig workers who continue to drive the country's economy.

In light of the coming Chinese

New Year celebrations, Ramanan also urged Malaysians to stay safe on the roads.

"While it's the Year of the Horse, we should not race like horses. Be careful and drive safe during your travels," he said.

In his speech, PERKESO chairman Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal urged for the rakyat to take heed of the benefits provided for contributors.

Among those he highlighted was the Lindung Kasih scheme.

This scheme provides social security protection to housewives against domestic injury and invalidity while managing the household.

"It only costs RM120 annually but contributors will always stand to benefit," he said.

On the celebration, Subahan said it reflected the true prosperous nature of Malaysia, noting how Malays, Chinese and Indians all joined the festivities.

"We are such a diverse group

and when we are needed to unite, we do so," he said.

At the same event, some RM318,042.84 worth of PERKESO benefits were channelled to 15 contributors and their next-of-kin.

The payouts were under the Lindung Pekerja, Lindung Kerjaya, Lindung Kendiri and Lindung Kasih schemes.

PERKESO group chief executive officer Datuk Seri Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed, who was also present, said beneficiaries included those who lost their jobs, with allowances also given for those seeking jobs.

"Those involved in accidents will also receive compensation and once they have completed their sick leave, they will also receive another compensation payout," he said.

Some 100 orphans were also given ang pow while 40 widows and widowers received hampers.

10 non-governmental organisations and charitable bodies based in Sungai Buloh also received RM10,000 each in efforts to assist their operations.

A total of 3,500 aid baskets were also channelled to families from the lower income group here.

Also present were Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan, Ministry secretary-general Datuk Azman Mohd Yusof and deputy secretary-general (policy and international) Dr Mohd Shahrin Umar.