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Boost for Bumi businesses

SYARIAH-COMPLIANT:

Najib launches RM200 million Al-Ansar Bumiputera Fund

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DEVELOPING and strengthening Bumiputera businesses has always been part of the national agenda, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of the Al-Ansar Bumiputera Fund in Parliament, the prime minister said various measures had been taken by the government to ensure the success of the agenda.

"One of these initiatives is the New Bumiputera Entrepreneurship Scheme (Superb), which aims to help start-up companies and develop business ideas.

"It is my hope that small and medium enterprises will seize these opportunities to expand their businesses to the next level."

The Al-Ansar Bumiputera Fund, amounting to RM200 million, is the first syariah-compliant restricted investment account in Malaysia to get approval from Bank Negara Malaysia.

A new initiative by Lembaga Tabung Haji, the fund offers credit financing from RM50,000 up to RM1 million, which will be managed by Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd.

It aims to help Muslim Bumiputera businesses expand and develop.

Sectors that are given priority in the implementation of this initia-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak presenting a financing contract to Mohamad Fuad Abdul Samad at the launch of the Al-Ansar Bumiputera Fund in Parliament yesterday. With them are Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom (left), Lembaga Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim (third from right), and its managing director and chief executive, Tan Sri Ismeel Ismail (right). Pic by Aizuddin Saad

...tive include the halal food industry, oil and gas, education, healthcare, agriculture, transportation and hospitality.

Later, Najib presented the first financing contracts under the Al-Ansar fund to 11 Bumiputera companies.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, Lembaga Tabung Haji chairman Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim, and its managing director and chief executive, Tan Sri Ismeel Ismail.

More time for BR1M appeals

PUTRAJAYA: The government has agreed to extend the appeal deadline for the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) 2015 from March 31 to April 15.

The Finance Ministry yesterday said the extension would allow those who could not submit their appeals to do so at the nearest In-

land Revenue Board branch.

"The government will also make a second payout of BR1M 2015, starting from May 28. A total of 7.28 million recipients have benefited from BR1M 2015," it said.

For any queries, call the toll-free number at 1800-88-2716 or email br1m@treasury.gov.my.