

Prihatin cash aid a lifeline for individuals who lost their jobs

KUALA LUMPUR: The RM500 government cash aid under the Prihatin Supplementary Initiative Package (Kita Prihatin) is regarded as a lifeline for those who had lost their jobs following the Covid-19 pandemic.

A graphic designer, who was recently retrenched by his company, said the second cash aid helped her a great deal following the first round of cash aid Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package (Prihatin) in March.

"The first Prihatin aid at the start of the Movement Control Order helped me settle my bills

and pay for my groceries. At that time, I had just been retrenched.

"I was thankful when the Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced Kita Prihatin 2.0 package recently because I am still unemployed and had some bills to settle," she said.

For Zul Rahim, 29, the cash aid came at a time when his work contract was not renewed following financial problems.

"In July, I found out that my company was unable to renew my contract. Luckily at that time I had started saving every

month, because I saw people losing jobs since the start of the pandemic."

He said he had previously relied on the first round of Prihatin cash aid and some of his savings to help him settle some of his outstanding bills.

"The additional cash aid from Kita Prihatin will be able to help me during this challenging time, as I continue to look for jobs and do whatever I can to survive," the former site engineer said.

Zul hoped to extend his loan moratorium which came to an end yesterday.

"The real challenge for many people will begin when the moratorium ends. Since I am still unemployed, I plan to extend my loan moratorium and hope the government can facilitate the process to make it easier for people like me to do this. At the same time, I hope the next round of cash aid could be increased."

Former corporate executive Kamsiah, 30, who was retrenched from her company recently, expressed hope that she would be eligible for the cash aid this time.

Kamsiah said her application for the first round of cash aid was

rejected because she was still employed at the time.

"I am worried if my application is rejected again. I hope the government agency that is handling this can make the process easier," she said.

The RM10 billion Kita Prihatin initiatives comprise RM7 billion for Bantuan Prihatin Nasional 2.0, RM2.4 billion for the Wage Subsidy Programme 2.0 and RM600 million for Prihatin Special Grant, to help those in need including unmarried individuals, the B40 income group, local workers and micro-traders.