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Tajuk : RM1 mln Papar bazaar project to empower rural entrepreneurs

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PAPAR: An entrepreneur bazaar to be developed at Masjid Jamek Haji Said Derun in Kampung Malagui Kelatuan here is expected to serve as a catalyst for uplifting small traders and hawkers in rural areas.

Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Datuk Mohamad Alamin said the project, launched during a ground-breaking ceremony here recently, aims to strengthen grassroots economic empowerment in Sabah.

According to him, the RM1 million project under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (Kuskop) will be implemented by the Urban Development Authority (UDA) Holdings Berhad and is expected to directly benefit at least 20 local micro-entrepreneurs.

"The initiative forms part of the Rural Market Premises Development Programme, which aims to uplift small traders and hawkers in rural areas by providing more organised and systematic business premises," he said.

Mohamad added that the

project reflects the ministry's commitment to empowering small traders while improving business opportunities within rural communities.

He said the project also involves strategic cooperation between Kuskop and the Sabah Islamic Religious Council, particularly through the use of mosque 'waqf' land.

"This collaboration highlights the important role of cooperation between Kuskop, government agencies and religious institutions in benefitting the community," he said.

Mohamad also called for the project to be expedited so that entrepreneurs from the mosque community could enjoy the benefits of the development sooner.

"To ensure sustainable management, I propose the establishment of a mosque community cooperative to manage this bazaar professionally with guidance from the Malaysian Cooperative Commission and the Institute of Cooperative Malaysia," he added.

During the event, Mohamad also presented Aidilfitri contributions totalling RM50,000 to 500 asnaf recipients.

In the same ceremony, eight mosques and 38 suraus received contributions amounting to RM84,000 to support religious activities and maintenance works.

The contributions are expected to assist in the implementation of mosque programmes and ensure that mosque and surau facilities remain well maintained and conducive for the community.

The programme also reflects Kuskop's partnership with several agencies, including the Contractor Service Centre, National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (Tekun Nasional), Bank Rakyat, Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia, SME Bank, SME Corporation Malaysia, Perbadanan Nasional Berhad, Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad and Co-opbank Pertama.