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Penans get aid in food basket project

KUCHING: A total of 333 Penan families in Long San, Long Keluan and Lusong Laku in Belaga here have benefited from the food basket programme, said state Deputy Secretary (operations) Datuk Ose Murang.

He said the pilot project had alleviated the burden of low-income Penans.

"Any family earning less than RM1,500 a month can receive the assistance," Ose said here yesterday.

He said response to the programme was encouraging. It was launched in Long San three weeks ago.

Ose said recipients could make their food purchases at selected retail outlets using the MyKasih smartcard.

The smartcard is reloaded with RM100 a month.

However, the assistance for each family is limited to one year.

The programme is a collaboration between the state and federal governments, and the MyKasih Foundation.

"Under the government's transformation programme, more attention is given to the physical and socioeconomic needs of every community.

"We hope the programme will spur others to contribute. We hope to expand it in the future."