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Page : 7

## Promote volunteerism, cooperation within community, KRTs reminded

**KOTA SAMARAHAN:** Neighbourhood watch areas (KRTs) in Sarawak must always seek to promote the spirit of volunteerism and cooperation within their respective communities, said Women, Childhood and Community Wellbeing Development Minister Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah.

She pointed out that with Sarawak making the transition to endemicity on April 1, more community-based activities and programmes can be organised but with strict adherence to health protocols to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The Sarawak government through the Social Development Council under my ministry has taken the initiative to work together with KRTs to implement and plan the Randau Solidariti Komuniti (RSK) programme to achieve the aspirations of Keluarga Malaysia.

"This programme started in 2020, and was expanded in 2021. The RSK programme is expected to be implemented in all 34 districts this year," she said.

She said this when officiating at the Sarawak-level Komuniti Sejahtera Keluarga Malaysia grants presentation ceremony held at Kota Samarahan Civic Centre yesterday.

A total RM6.2 million has been allocated this year by the federal government for KRTs throughout Sarawak.

According to figures from the National Unity and Integration Department (JPNIN) Sarawak, 1,034 of the total 1,063 KRTs in Sarawak are eligible to receive the grants.

JPNIN Sarawak also stated that Kuching Division has the most number of KRTs eligible for the funds, at 219.

Fatimah pointed out the federal Ministry of National

Unity had introduced a clear and comprehensive direction for Rukun Tetangga through the Rukun Tetangga Leadership Empowerment Plan 2021-2030, in efforts to provide quality and excellent services to the community.

She said various programmes and initiatives have been implemented in supporting the spirit of Keluarga Malaysia, which were carried out through the Rukun Tetangga community work for those affected by various disasters.

"For example, when the country faced the Covid-19 pandemic, food basket assistance was given to residents through the RT Cares Unity Squad as well as healthcare needs including wheelchairs, medical beds and other needs suitable for the community," she said.

Meanwhile, JPNIN Sarawak director Dirwana Azool said the



Fatimah (centre) and Dirwana (second right) jointly hold the mock cheque announcing the allocation for KRTs in Sarawak. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

KRTs will be receiving around RM6,000 each.

He also expressed the

department's appreciation and gratitude to Fatimah's ministry for the assistance, and for

involving the KRTs through programmes under the Social Development Council.