



Every bit helps: Budget 2020 has outlined a special allowance of RM200 a month for Fire and Rescue Department personnel. — Bernama

Firemen happy to get special monthly allowance

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PETALING JAYA: Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Hamdan Wahid is a happy man.

Budget 2020 has outlined a special allowance of RM200 a month for Fire and Rescue Department personnel, a long-awaited move which will benefit 14,400 personnel.

A total of RM35m has been allocated next year for this purpose.

"We sent in the application for the allowance in 2015. When we heard the announcement, it really put a smile on our faces," he said when contacted.

The allowance, he said, would boost the morale of the department.

It was also announced that Rela personnel would be given an allowance of RM2 per hour effective Jan 1 next year.

Datuk Seri Michael Chong, who is a Rela honorary commissioner, said he was very happy with the news.

"Many of the personnel on the field are

from the lower income bracket, so every bit helps. We see them struggling so at least now they have a little extra. This will be good news to them," he said.

And to recognise the sacrifices of the Armed Forces, particularly holders of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia, the government will give a one-off payment of RM500 to 70,000 holders of the medals.

Meanwhile, Socso chief executive officer Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohamed said the government's RM20m allocation to further extend the benefits under i-Suri was a far-sighted move.

"I would like to thank the government for focusing on social security for the people, providing coverage for housewives.

"This will enable Socso to expand social security coverage to those who have not been covered. At least they will get the standard social security projection against injuries, illnesses and invalidity," he said.

Dr Mohammed Azman said around 150,000 housewives are expected to benefit from the scheme.