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Windfall for villagers

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Windfall for villagers

KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday.

RESIDENTS of Jenderam, the Selangor "ghost town" which has just been reopened, were all smiles yesterday when they learned that 420 families there will each receive a grant of \$250.

The Federation Government announced that the Social Welfare Services Lotteries Board had approved a \$105,000 grant to help the people re-established themselves.

Jenderam was closed by the Government eight years ago because the people there failed to co-operate in fighting the Emergency.

Only 65 families have returned to the village, which was reopened four months ago. The others, who are scattered all over the Federation, are being asked to go back.

The Mentri Besar of Selangor, Inche Abdul Jamil bin Abdul Rais, visited the village yesterday.





A large crowd gathered at the mosque to listen to him was told that the State Government had set aside \$70,000 for the development of Jenderam.

22 shops

There are 22 wooden shop-houses and several huts along the main road at Jenderam. Its 1,000 acres of rubber smallholdings and 600 acres of rice fields are being cleared of lalang and grass.

Members of the kampong's development committee told the Straits Times today that money was urgently needed to build a new school, repair the mosque and cultivate the land.

The rice fields, they said, could not be planted with padi because of an acute lack of water. An irrigation system was badly needed. At present the people's only means of livelihood was rubber tapping.

The secretary of the development committee, Inche Abdul Rahman bin Dasar, said: "We shall need all the help the Government can give us."

"Our only means of earning a living is by tapping, but this cannot go on for long because most of the trees are very old."



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