Budget 2023 to strengthen rural digital economy

KOTA BARU: The Budget 2023, which will be tabled on Oct 28, will focus on strengthening the digital economy especially in rural areas.

Deputy Finance Minister I Datuk Mohd Shahar Abdullah said this was to ensure that rural communities were not left out of the technology in developing their economic resources.

"We find that revenue through e-commerce (platforms) increased by 7.7 per cent to RM288.2 billion in the second quarter of this year compared to the second quarter of last year where it saw returns of RM267.2 billion.

"We are confident that business prospects will become bigger by using digital applications. So we are preparing not only for the urban but also for rural areas in line with the technological advances," he said.

He said this after attending the Merdeka@Komuniti Keluarga Malaysia at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kadok, here, today .

He said the **Statistics Department** had recorded e-commerce transactions in 2021 at RM1.09 trillion, up 21.8 per cent compared to RM896.4 billion in 2020.

"The size of the e-commerce market has skyrocketed over the years and we expect to have an e-commerce market size of RM1.65 trillion by 2025," he added.

He said visits had been conducted nationwide to see the public's willingness to apply digital technology in their business, especially at the village level.

"We have visited the states of Johor, Terengganu and Kelantan to see all levels of society.

Shahar said Budget 2023 would also look into implementing consumer subsidies as well as measures to restore the country's economy.

"We cannot control external factors, but we are preparing for the projections and initiatives to be implemented," he said.

https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2022/08/824218/budget-2023-strengthen-rural-digital-economy