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## Johor's 2024 budget to focus on uplifting Orang Asli communities

JOHOR BARU: The state government's 2024 budget, scheduled to be presented this November, will include initiatives to uplift the Orang Asli communities.

State Agriculture, Agro-based Industry and Rural Development Committee chairman Datuk Zahari Sarip said more attention should be directed to the Orang Asli communities' development, as several settlements in the state still lack access to clean water supply.

He said to achieve the state's Maju Johor 2030 goal, there should not be any segments of society left behind in the development process.

"I believe the state government will include the Orang Asli community during the upcoming budget presentation... significant aid and development plans are being channelled towards them," he added.

Zahari said he invited Orang Asli settlements' Tok Batin and representatives to attend the budget presentation in Kota Iskandar this November.

He said the state government's initiatives under its 'Kampung Orang Asli Sejahtera' programme are targeted towards the well-being of the settlers, including in their education and economic activities, as well as upgrading the facilities and amenities in the settlements.

The programme was announced when the state government tabled their budget last year.

He said the Orang Asli settlement in Putting, here in Segamat, was chosen as the first settlement to benefit from the programme with an RM300,000 allocation.