

## Tekun Nasional helps snack food entrepreneur to succeed

By: Nur Firdaus Abdul Rahim



KEMAMAN, April 7 (Bernama) -- After 20 years, Rohani Awang Mat, a Kuala Kemaman snack food producer who started her business with only RM40 as capital, is now able to earn up to RM18,000 a month.

However Rohani, 51, admitted that it was not smooth sailing from the very start as her husband Pazli Muda, 56 and her had no experience in producing crackers (keropok) or other fish-based snacks.

"I had to quit my job as a clerk at a used car company because I was taking care of my ailing mother ... after a year we were in deep financial problem because at that time my husband was just a junior administrative assistant with the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), here.

"It was at that point I decided to take a RM7,000 loan from TEKUN Nasional and with two workers I was on my way to becoming a 'keropok' entrepreneur.

"But after a while I found that with the low profit margin it was not feasible for me to hire the two workers so after discussing with my husband and learning the tricks of the trade from my mother, we decided to run the keropok business by ourselves," said Kak Ani as she is fondly called.

Kak Ani was met by Bernama at the 2018 Entrepreneurship Carnival at Pantai Kuala Kertih here today.

She is among thousands of female entrepreneurs who had benefited from TEKUN Nasional loan aimed at empowering small business owners.

Recalling the early days Kak Ani said the business started from a 10 sq ft area in her house in Kuala Terengganu before she moved to a more spacious RM10,000 house in Kuala Kemaman in 1999.

"Thank God sales of my snack products started picking up and I now employ 18 local workers to assist me in running the business, " she added.

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*Sumber: <http://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=1452171>*