

PM: NEW CABINET TO BE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK

New administration won't involve the opposition, says Ismail Sabri

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NEWLY-appointed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said his administration's cabinet line-up will be announced this week.

He said the list would be presented to Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah first for consent.

Ismail Sabri said his administration would not be a unity government that involved opposition elected representatives.

"Cooperation with them (the opposition) does not mean they will be in the cabinet, but they can play their role by channelling their ideas through the Special Committee on Covid-19 and the National Recovery Council," he said.

He also addressed rumours circulating about the cabinet line-

up and urged people not to believe them as they were all false.

"Do not believe them, there are so many names being brought up. Every day there's a new list. But it is also good because it can help me see them."

On a suggestion that the deputy prime minister be someone from Sabah or Sarawak, Ismail Sabri said he was willing to consider it.

Ismail Sabri had earlier in the day clocked in for his first day of work as prime minister at 8.30am at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya before departing for Yan to assess the destruction caused by floods last Wednesday.

To date, six people have died in the tragedy.

On the disaster, the prime minister said the government had approved a RM78 million allocation for infrastructure repairs and aid to more than 1,000 families affected by the flash floods here and in Merbok.

The allocation included RM50 million via the Water and Environment Ministry which, among other things, will be channelled into Phase One of a project to upgrade the river and drainage system along a 27km stretch, which costs RM5 million.

The rest of the allocation would be used for a RM23 million project to build two bridges, RM20 million for the construction of

the Sabo dam, which will prevent uprooted trees from being washed away, and RM2 million to upgrade the Gurun and Tupah Water Treatment Plant intakes, which will resolve the water disruption problem in Merbok.

"Another RM25 million will be allocated to improve local council facilities, the rural tourism sector, repair the community water supply system, restore damaged padi fields and other infrastructure."

He said RM3 million would be allocated to repair houses and other damage incurred by victims of the floods.

"I hope the allocation will help solve the problems here, and we will ask for all the repair work to be done as soon as possible as residents are facing difficulties at this time.

"For other additional needs, it can be conveyed to Menteri Besar Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor and he will inform the federal government."

He also expressed sympathy to those affected by the disaster and offered his condolences to the families of the six victims who died.

On Aug 20, the government had announced a RM500 aid to each family as well as a RM5,000 aid to the families of the victims affected by the disaster.

NST- 24/8/2021 pg. 2