

PM to chair session on **rising** cost of living

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➤ Relevant ministries to present medium, long-term remedial steps at National Action Council meeting.

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob will chair a meeting of the National Action Council on Cost of Living tomorrow to discuss comprehensive measures to address the rising cost of living faced by the people.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said medium and long-term measures would be presented by relevant ministries at the meeting.

"Among matters to be discussed are those related to dependence on imports, costs of food inputs, foreign worker issues, subsidy schemes,

grants and soft loans, financing, transport and logistics, agricultural technology as well as research and development," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was replying to a question by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (PH-Port Dickson) on effective short, medium and long-term measures to be taken by the council to address the rise in prices of basic necessities.

Mustapa said the government was aware that the prices of basic necessities, especially chicken, fish and several types of vegetables, had increased significantly of late, adding that

the government was also very concerned about the problems faced by the people, especially the B40 and M40 groups, following the price hikes.

He said the prime minister had instructed all ministries to take immediate action to address issues related to their respective portfolios, Bernama reported.

Mustapa said the Statistics Department, which monitors the consumer price index on a monthly basis, has been instructed to monitor some of the basic necessities on a daily basis and to report the trend of price changes to the government.

He added that through Budget 2022, the government had allocated RM31 billion in subsidies, aid and incentives, including subsidies for RON95 petrol and diesel as well as cooking oil and flour.