

# LIVEABILITY INDEX IN THE WORKS

Liveability is an important instrument in ensuring investor-friendly environment, says PM

HANA NAZ HARUN  
AND DAWN CHAN  
PUTRAJAYA  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE government will introduce a Malaysia Liveability Index, which is a high-impact measuring tool to ensure sustainable town planning, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the index would also be used as a policy instrument to assess the planning of a town or city, to best achieve the goals of the Fourth National Physical Plan (RFN4), based on the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

“Worldwide, liveability is an important instrument in attracting investments and ensuring an investor-friendly environment.

“This includes the question of last-mile connectivity, access to the Internet and public facilities, and other factors by making people the core beneficiaries,” he said at the celebration of 100 Years of Town Planning Profession in Malaysia, in conjunction with Malaysia World Town Planning Day 2021 yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the RFN4 was a strategic document that outlined the country’s spatial development, in line with the 12MP.

The RFN4, he added, had been drafted with three key development thrusts, 11 strategic directions, 11 strategic directions, and 39 implementation actions to ensure Malaysia became a prosperous and resilient nation in terms of economy, environment and social balance, ensuring the wellbeing of Keluarga Malaysia.

“It also translates the country’s commitments on a global level, such as the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, while becoming an instrument of development coordina-

tion between federal and state governments.

“This is also why the RFN4 must be a strategic rolling plan in realising the aspirations of a Liveable Malaysia through all thrusts, with Keluarga Malaysia as the main receivers,” he added.

The prime minister commended the country’s town planners, describing them as “silent heroes” who had been the starting point of the nation’s physical development.

Later, in his speech to mark the upcoming World Children’s Day

2021 on Nov 20, Ismail Sabri said a policy on child protection was a necessity as it would pave the way and encourage all agencies, organisations and members of society to make the act of safeguarding those in the age group a priority and a collective responsibility.

He said such a policy was in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1995 and the Child Act 2001, which emphasises the protection and best interests of the child.

In Malaysia, an individual un-

der the age of 18 is defined as a child, as stipulated in the CRC.

“All children have the basic right to education and to grow in a conducive environment so that they are able to reach their full potential and to chase their dreams. Therefore, all of us must play an important role in creating a better environment for each child.

“Children are the nation’s most important human capital that can be developed to an optimum level through the provision of a safe and conducive environment. We must put in more effort to protect them as some of them will be great future leaders.”

Ismail Sabri said the country remained committed to giving protection to children, especially those from vulnerable groups, or victims of sexual crimes and domestic violence to stay true to the Keluarga Malaysia concept and with the nation securing a seat in the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) 2022-2024 term.

Between June last year and August this year, 1,721 sexual violence cases against children were recorded. There were 2,161 active cases in the trial process, he revealed.

“Let us not forget about the protection of children under detention. Malaysia’s commitment in tackling this issue can be seen in the establishment of the Alternative to Detention programme when the government took its pledge as a HRC member.

“The government is responsible for protecting all children in this country, regardless of nationality, race, religion, place of birth or other status.”



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob speaking at the celebration of the 100 Years of Town Planning Profession in Malaysia, in Putrajaya yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Nst - 18/11/2021 pg. 6