

PM tells ministers to be good mentors

NST- 14/10/2021 pg. 3

KUALA LUMPUR: Ministers who serve as mentors in the Perdana Fellows Programme 2021 must ensure participants are equipped with knowledge in various aspects of ministerial administration.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said ministers should not leave participants to their own devices as the programme aimed to develop their skills so that they can succeed in their future careers in the private and public sectors.

“The objective of the fellowship is to allow youths from public and private higher learning institutions to understand, learn from and experience the workings of a ministry, and see their mentors’ involvement in politics.

“Previous ministers have taken fellows to their constituencies, got them involved in politics and took them to Parliament to see debates.

“I ask that ministers (who are mentors to) give full guidance to the fellows. There have been cases where some (ministers) left the fel-

lows to do their own thing, not getting them involved in the administration, not taking them to constituencies or to Parliament. Some (fellows) have complained that they were left on their own.

“If the necessary exposure, education and knowledge are not provided during the three months (of the programme), the fellows will not benefit much. This defeats the purpose of the programme.

“Some fellows ventured into politics after completing the programme. Some rose to become ministers and others become successful in various sectors.”

He said this in his speech at the launch of the Perdana Fellows Programme 2021 before presenting the Perdana Fellows to the respective ministers at Bangunan Perdana Putra in Putrajaya.

Present were Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Ismail Sabri congratulated and

praised the Perdana Fellows as only 40 participants were chosen.

He will mentor four Perdana Fellows — Ainul Ashikin Helmy, Yap Sin Yee, Pavidra Roganathan and Gan Wee Shen.

Ahmad Faizal said the high-level leadership programme would provide a platform for youths to realise their full potential.

“Fellows will be assigned to ministers’ offices and work at ministry divisions on rotation. This will give them exposure and understanding of ministries and their policies.

“The placement this year will be for three months instead of the maximum six in past years.

“However, if mentors wish to extend the services of their fellows, they can do so, but it won’t be under the programme.”

He said the programme received 82 applications this year, but many pulled out after a postponement. Some were unable to join the programme as they had secured jobs and continued with their studies.