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PM: YOUTHS NOT SIDELINED IN BUDGET

25 initiatives formulated for them in spending plan, says Ismail Sabri

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THE government will never sideline youths from the nation's development agenda and evidence of this can be seen in the allocation set aside for the group in the 2022 Budget.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the Budget, with a proposed RM332.1 billion allocation, will provide benefits to everyone, from every age group, including youths, whether they reside in urban or rural areas.

Ismail Sabri said there were 25

initiatives in the Budget, tabled by Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz on Friday, which were formulated to benefit youths.

"After the Budget was tabled yesterday, I noticed there were negative comments from young people, alleging that the government had sidelined the group.

"There are 25 initiatives formulated for youths in the 2022 Budget. It is just that we did not put the allocations or initiatives for youths in a single grouping.

"The government has not and will never sideline youths since the future of our nation depends on them," he said at the National Youth Day 2021 celebration here yesterday.

Present were Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu and Malaysian Youth Council president Jufitri Joha.

Also present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Women, Family and Community Development Minis-

ter Datuk Seri Rina Harun, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ti Lian Ker and Deputy National Unity Minister Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal.

Youths and those who were single took to social media following the tabling of the Budget to express their disappointment as they believed they had been sidelined.

Tengku Zafrul later responded on Facebook that aid allocated for the group came under Bantuan Keluarga Malaysia (BKM).

He said single individuals (youth) with a monthly income of less than RM2,500 were entitled to a RM350 one-off cash aid under the BKM initiative.

He also said the Budget was just part of the various assistance measures for Malaysians.

"The tabling would have went on till late night if we were to list every assistance allocated. *In-syaAllah*, more information on the assistance under BKM will follow," he said.