

We will leave no one behind, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government will uphold the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said with the theme "A Prosperous, Inclusive, Sustainable Malaysia", the 12MP will address development disparity between states and income gaps between socio-economic groups.

"In the name of Keluarga Malaysia, we will ensure that basic needs such as water, electricity and internet connection are met for all Malaysians," he said yesterday at the virtual Khazanah Megatrends Forum, that was also attended by Khazanah Nasional Bhd managing director Datuk Amirul Feisal Wan Zahir.

Ismail Sabri, who is also Khazanah chairman, also said that Budget 2022 would urgently address all immediate fiscal issues.

"For the first time ever, we have also released a pre-Budget statement to outline our intentions for the Budget, and we have also distributed five Public Consultation Papers on a variety of structural reform issues."

Ismail Sabri added that the National Recovery Council would play a leading role in restoring economic health and prosperity.

"We will take a broad and inclusive societal approach, drawing up strategies and various tactics that

would take us out of the pandemic into a safe and sustainable plan in living with an endemic scenario."

On the Covid-19 situation, he said Malaysia must be prepared to accept that the country can no longer return to the "carefree normality" of the past.

"We will implement policies that will encourage the attitude and behaviour necessary in this scenario.

"Malaysians will have clear standard operating procedures and will be entrusted to exercise responsibility. In return, they will enjoy resumption of social and economic activities, along a clear path defined by a meaningful government strategy," he said.

On the Keluarga Malaysia concept, Ismail Sabri said: "Our intent must be that all Malaysians shall strive for prosperity, economic security, equal opportunity, education, healthcare, safety, social justice and mutual respect. It is a country of kindness, compassion, peace and happiness, despite our differences."

He emphasised that as Keluarga Malaysia, the country's most urgent needs must be fully aligned.

"It should not be a political competition, but one of national unity and cooperation. This is an inclusive government, all opinions will be taken into account before decisions are finalised." - Bernama