

# PM URGES FOLKS TO BALIK KAMPUNG

But practise self-control to ensure people's safety, says Ismail Sabri

BERA

**T**HE government is sticking to its stand to allow people to "balik kampung" to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday.

He said he had even advised those he met to celebrate Aidilfitri with their families after two years of not celebrating the festival in their hometowns and villages, following the implementation of the Movement Control Order to curb the spread of Covid-19.

He said he would not organise an open house at Seri Perdana on the first day of Aidilfitri to allow people to celebrate the festival with their families first.

"I told them (those he met) that their children can return home to celebrate (Aidilfitri) this year.

"I believe many people 'balik kampung' on the first day of Ramadan because the roads were badly congested then.

"This time, to give people the opportunity to balik kampung for Raya, we will hold the prime minister's open house on May 8.

"Do 'balik kampung' to celebrate Aidilfitri with your family first, because many have been waiting to do so."



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob presenting cash donations to Bera residents at the Jelajah Semarak Ramadan programme in Bera, Pahang, yesterday, PIC BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

Ismail Sabri, who is Bera member of parliament, said this after presenting cash donations from the Petronas Foundation to the underprivileged at Al-Muttaqin Mosque, Kampung Mengkarak, here.

He reminded the public to exercise self-control even though the country was transitioning to the endemic phase.

"Although self-control is not mandatory, wearing a face mask is still mandatory.

"I hope people practise self-control to ensure their safety as

well as that of their family members and others, even if physical distancing is no longer required."

On the contributions, he said cash aid, distributed yesterday and today, to 4,800 recipients from the Bera parliamentary constituency, was to help the recipients prepare for Aidilfitri.

Earlier, he presented contributions to the underprivileged in conjunction with the Jelajah Semarak Ramadan programme at the Kampung Batu Bor Mosque here.

He said the programme aimed

to ease the burden of *asnaf* (those eligible to receive *zakat* or tithe), single mothers and orphans in their preparations for Aidilfitri.

"I hope the contributions can help them celebrate Hari Raya. We provide this assistance every year."

He invited the recipients to attend an open house that he would organise at Dataran Kerayong here on May 7.

He said the open house tradition could strengthen the relationship between locals and community leaders, regardless of race

and religion.

He also presented donations from the Petronas Foundation to more than 200 recipients from Kampung Batu Bor, Charok Putting and Paya Mengkuang Ladang.

He is scheduled to present donations to more than 1,000 Bera residents at the Mengkarak Mosque, Taman Merbau Hall and Bandar Kemayan Mosque.

Present were Bera district officer Datuk Zaman Azam Mohamat Sarif and community leaders. **Bernama**