

# PM TO ENSURE SMOOTH AID DISTRIBUTION

I will ensure all parties shoulder their responsibilities, says Ismail Sabri

KUALA LUMPUR

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has stressed that he will ensure that all parties collectively shoulder the responsibility of ensuring aid to flood victims is distributed smoothly.

He said the matter was discussed in the first cabinet meeting of the year yesterday to ensure that all aid previously announced by the government was delivered to people swiftly.

He said he also issued a reminder to cabinet members of their respective roles in tackling all crises, whether it involves health, the economy or natural disasters.

"Following the floods, I will ensure that all quarters shoulder their responsibilities to the best of their abilities in managing the distribution of government aid.

"All aid previously announced has to be delivered as quickly as possible," he said on Facebook yesterday.

"I also reminded all cabinet members that each of them has a role to play in managing all crises, be they health, economy or disaster-related.

"I am certain that with dedication from all, we can manage

these challenges smoothly as part of "Keluarga Malaysia'."

He said apart from flood and post-flood management, the cabinet meeting also focused on the postponement of the umrah pilgrimage for Malaysians following the presence of the Omicron Covid-19 variant in Saudi Arabia.

In an address in conjunction with the New Year on Friday, Ismail Sabri announced the Bantuan Banjir Keluarga Malaysia aid involving payments of up to RM10,000 to heads of households affected by the floods.

This, he said, was part of the government's efforts to reduce the burden of the people impacted by the floods without requiring them to withdraw their Employee Provident Fund contributions.

The government had also allocated cash aid of up to RM5,000 for each family to repair homes moderately damaged by floodwaters.

Those whose homes were severely damaged by the floods can receive an allocation of up to RM15,000. Those whose homes have been left uninhabitable would receive aid of up to RM56,000 to help them build a new house.

Meanwhile, the number of flood victims seeking shelter at flood relief centres in Johor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Melaka and Sabah declined yesterday. The situation remained unchanged in Selangor and Terengganu.

In Johor, the number of flood victims in the seven affected districts dropped to 5,399 people

from 1,430 families at 8am, compared with 5,923 from 1,585 families on Tuesday night.

Segamat had the highest number of evacuees with 3,804 people, followed by Tangkak (598), Mersing (470), Muar (161), Kota Tinggi (131), Kluang (124) and Batu Pahat (111).

In Pahang, a total of 1,846 flood victims were still at 32 relief centres yesterday, involving the districts of Raub, Jerantut, Temerloh, Bera, Maran, Kuantan, Pekan and Rompin.

The Irrigation and Drainage Department, on its website, said water levels at three rivers had exceeded the danger level, namely Sungai Bera and Sungai Serting in Bera and Sungai Pahang in Kuala Sungai Chini, Pekan.

In Negri Sembilan, data from the Social Welfare Department's InfoBencana application showed that the number of flood victims in relief centres fell to 1,488 individuals from 396 families yesterday compared with 1,628 individuals from 448 families on Tuesday night.

In Sabah, the number of evacuees dropped to 3,385 (1,329 families) yesterday from 3,365 (1,331 families) on Tuesday night.

Kota Marudu had the most evacuees with 2,668 people from 1,120 families at 14 relief centres, followed by Pitas (319 people from 120 families at four centres), Telupid (216 people from 49 families at seven centres), Sandakan (45 people from seven families at one centre), Beluran (38 people from 10 families at one centre), and Paitan (99 people from 23 families at three centres).