

RISING COST OF LIVING

PM refutes allegations against govt

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PASIR SALAK: The government has never sat idly by (*berpeluk tubuh*) in the face of cost-of-living issues, stressed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

“Last week, in the compound of Masjid Jamek in Kampung Baru, one of the opposition parties held a demonstration after Friday prayers, joined by about 40 to 50 people.

“Various allegations were made against the government as if the government has not done anything (*berpeluk tubuh*) to address the issues concerning the cost of living.

“The government realises that prices of goods are rising. I made random checks at business premises and supermarkets to look into this issue,” he said at the closing of Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob presenting a contribution to Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia top scorer Nurshahfika Mohamad Yusri at the closing of Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia in Pasir Salak yesterday. BERNAMA

Aspirations Tour) at Litar Dato' Sagor in Kampung Gajah here yesterday.

He repeated that to ensure the people were not burdened by the situation, the government had provided RM70 billion in subsidies this year.

“This phenomenon is not only happening in Malaysia but also globally. For example, we don't import chicken.

“Based on the self-sufficiency level for chicken, our supply surpassed demand by 113 per cent.”

Ismail Sabri said the government spent more than RM4 billion to ensure that the cooking oil

in 1kg packets remained at RM2.50 each.

He explained that subsidies were given for bottled cooking oil only during the Movement Control Order.

“That was a one-time subsidy and we are not continuing it as the MCO has ended.”

Ismail Sabri said the government had formed committees to ensure that the people were not burdened by price hikes.

“The latest is the Jihad Task Force, which will formulate strategies and coordinate actions to resolve inflation-related issues and increases in prices of goods.”

By Zahratulhayat Mat Arif