

# GOVT TO APPOINT SENATOR FOR YOUTH

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This is to ensure their voices are heard by govt, says Ismail Sabri

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**A** SENATOR will be appointed from the youth to represent the group in the Dewan Negara, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

“Your voices will be heard and your views appreciated as you are the future of the country.

“I have discussed with the youth and sports minister on how important youths are to the nation and your voices will definitely be heard by the government.

“Therefore, to listen to the voices of the youth, I would like to announce the appointment of a senator to represent youths at the Dewan Negara,” he said at the launch of the National Youth Day celebration here.

Ismail also announced an additional allocation of RM1 million for the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) to be shared with other youth associations.

Apart from that, he said, the government had allocated RM5.5 million to strengthen the role of the MYC and other youth associations through administrative assistance initiatives.

He said the government had introduced a new initiative called the Malaysia Sports League, which targeted 133,000 participants and 2,232 programmes to benefit the five million youths nationwide.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has turned the younger generation towards technology and social media, which, in turn, has led to in-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob waving to participants at the launch of the National Youth Day celebration in Tuaran yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

active lifestyles.

“The Malaysian Youth Index 2021 shows that the mental and physical wellbeing scores of youth are at the moderate level.

“Thus, it needs to be addressed through youth involvement in sports and lifestyle practices.”

He said the government believed the proposed New Model of Youth Development 2030 could be realised as the latest agenda to empower the youth as a national resource and asset.

“Therefore, the youths of Keluarga Malaysia must always fill their time with things that are beneficial for themselves, their

family, society and the country.”

Ismail Sabri said the Youth and Sports Ministry had developed an integrated system known as the Malaysian Youth Index that recorded information on youth development programmes.

“The Malaysia Techlympics Programme by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, which I officiated at earlier this year, is expected to see the participation of a million young people who can cultivate their interest in science, technology, engineering and Mathematics.

“The programme is also to look for young talent as young as 7 to

30 in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, coding, drones and technology.”

On the National Youth Day celebration, Ismail Sabri said it reflected the government's recognition of youths as the backbone of the country's development.

Nearly 21.4 per cent, or seven million people, out of 32.7 million Malaysians comprised youths aged between 15 and 30, and those aged between 15 and 40 numbered about 15 million.

Up to June 30, 9,766 youth organisations had been registered under the Youth Organisations

and Youth Development Act 2007 (Amendment 2019) (Act 668).

Of that number, 953 were registered in Sabah.

In Tuaran alone, there are 33 youth organisations.

“The figure is significant as it influences national development plans.

“That is why, the aspirations and views of youths are important for the government to chart the future,” said Ismail Sabri.

“What has been planned today will be inherited by the next generation of Keluarga Malaysia youths because ‘youth will lead to future revolution of the country’.”

Under the 12th Malaysia Plan, Ismail said, all ministries and agencies provided programmes involving youths so that they could continue to play a role in the development of the country.

“The Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development Ministry (Kuskop), for example, is implementing the Bank Rakyat UNIPreneur Programme, which involves 500 students from 25 public and private universities, starting this month.

“The Young Entrepreneurship Engagement Talent (Younity) programme produces franchises or pre-franchise entrepreneurs under Kuskop.

“It has received 26 applications for funding amounting to RM4.31 million up to end of last month.”

On the National Youth Day celebration, which saw more than 5,000 participants, Ismail said it was held outside the city as requested by the youths.

“Although the National Youth Day celebration is held in Tuaran, we still brought the Y-Career segment, which involves 30 companies offering 1,000 jobs to Keluarga Malaysia youths.

“Therefore, I urge the youths in Tuaran to use this opportunity to fill the vacancies offered to ensure a better future.”