

'HARDCORE POVERTY TO END BY 2025'

NST- 24/7/2022 pg. 4

Ministries, agencies, universities and NGOs introduced measures towards this goal, says PM

SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH
KOTA BARU
news@nst.com.my

THE government is confident hardcore poverty will be a thing of the past by 2025, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said ministries, agencies, private universities, non-governmental organisations and local leaders had introduced measures to address the issue.

"The Keluarga Malaysia Poverty Eradication Programme is being coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister's Department.

"God willing, we will achieve our aim of eradicating hardcore poverty by 2025," he said at the launch of the Kelantan leg of the Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia tour at the Sultan Muhammad IV stadium here yesterday.

Present were Communications and Multimedia Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa and Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob.

Ismail Sabri said the government had allocated RM124 million in cash aid for 590,000 recipients, including single mothers and the elderly, under Bantuan Keluarga Malaysia.

He said the total allocation for Bantuan Keluarga Malaysia was the highest yet, at RM8.2 billion.

He said the government was sensitive to the burden the people faced due to the rising cost of living and price hikes of essential goods.

He said RM1.1 billion had been spent on subsidies for chicken and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob holding a portrait of himself as he visits booths after the launch of the Kelantan leg of the Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia tour at Stadium Sultan Muhammad IV in Kota Baru yesterday.

PIC BY NIK
ABDULLAH
NIK OMAR

eggs and RM4 billion on subsidies for 1kg cooking oil in polybags.

"This proves that the Keluarga Malaysia concept, introduced on Aug 22 last year, is not mere rhetoric or just a slogan.

"It is about the wellbeing and interests of the people, who are cared for as a family.

"We introduced the concept so that we can share it across the country, so that the people can better appreciate and understand the aspirations of Keluarga Malaysia."

He said the concept of *tasamuh*, which emphasises tolerance and togetherness, was the pillar of the Keluarga Malaysia concept.

He said tolerance should be practised not only socially, but also in religion by respecting religious rights, which will create a peaceful and prosperous society.

On major projects that affect Kelantan, he said Tok Bali here was

expected to become Kelantan's new growth centre, contributing RM2.3 billion in investments and generating 4,200 jobs and 270 business opportunities.

He said the construction of the Tok Bali Industry Park and Tok Bali Integrated Fishery Park was managed by the East Coast Economic Region Development Council.

He announced an update on an infrastructure project that will affect several states, including Kelantan.

On the RM7.7 billion Central Spine Road, which includes a pack-

age that involves a 191km route between Gua Musang and Kuala Krai, he said the project was expected to be completed in 2026.

"This will make it easier for Kelantan folk to travel. It will improve socioeconomic activities.

"A project to build 12 clinics and quarters began in Kelantan this year. Two more projects like this will be introduced in Gua Musang and Bachok."

He said Kelantan would benefit from the East Coast Rail Link, which will connect Kota Baru to the Klang Valley.

"The upgrading of the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport will increase passenger capacity from 1.5 million to four million."

On the Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia tour, he said the tour would also go to Johor, Perlis, Sabah, Terengganu and Perak to make it easier for the people to deal with government agencies and ministries, in addition to providing jobs.

Twenty-six booths have been set up by government agencies and departments. Some 50,000 people are expected at the three-day event that ends today.