

# Keeping inflation down

PM: Govt listening to grievances of Keluarga Malaysia

The Star - 24/7/2022 pg. 2

**KOTA BARU:** A total of RM77bil in subsidies are in place to keep the country at the lowest inflation rate in South-East Asia, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

In addition, cash assistance of up to RM500 has been provided to the B40 (lower income) group and some of those in the M40 (middle income) group through Bantuan Keluarga Malaysia (BKM), he said.

BKM is the highest cash assistance in the country's history, with an allocation of RM8.2bil.

He reiterated that the government had always listened to the grievances of Keluarga Malaysia about the increase in the prices of goods, especially food.

"The government is spending RM1.1bil on chicken and egg subsidies and another RM4bil for packet cooking oil.

"Despite the global economic uncertainty, geopolitical crisis and world climate change that have had an impact on the cost of living for Malaysian families, we are making continuous efforts to address the issue," Ismail Sabri said when launching the Kelantan Malaysian Family Aspirations (AKM) Tour here yesterday.

On the state's development, the Prime Minister said Tok Bali, a small fishing port less than 50km from here, was set to become a new growth centre with an investment target of RM2.3bil.

"Tok Bali is targeted to become a new growth centre through special tax incentives and high-impact projects implemented by the East Coast Economic Region Development Council, namely the Tok Bali Industrial Park, Tok Bali Integrated



**Warm welcome:** Ismail Sabri (right) and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob (third from left) arriving at the Sultan Muhammad IV Stadium to open the Kelantan Malaysian Family Aspirations Tour. — Bernama

Fisheries Park and external infrastructure for the Tok Bali port.

"It is expected to generate 4,200 new jobs and 270 entrepreneurial opportunities," Bernama reported him as saying.

Ismail Sabri said the government would also build a RM6mil multi-purpose digital complex with a sports entertainment concept on a 23ha site in Keterah.

According to him, the Rural Development Ministry had allocated RM2.6bil for 88 projects in Kelantan.

Among them, 64 are extension projects and 24 new projects.

"The Central Spine Road package of 191km costing of RM7.7bil, connecting Gua Musang and Kuala Krai, is expected to be completed in 2026 and will facilitate people's travel and improve the socio-economic status of the local population," said Ismail Sabri.

He said the state would also benefit from the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project, connecting Kota Baru and Port Klang, which has two stations in Pasir Puteh and Tunjong here.

The Sultan Ismail Petra Airport upgrading project, which is expected to be completed in 2025, will be

able to accommodate passenger capacity from 1.5 million to four million per year, while the construction of the Palekbang Bridge in Tumpat, scheduled to be completed in 2025, will be a catalyst for new development in the state.

"As for the health sector, a total of 12 construction projects for health clinics and staff quarters are expected to be completed this year, while two more hospital projects under construction, in Gua Musang and the Bachok, encompassing 76 beds, are expected to be completed next year," said the Prime Minister.