

CALL TO UNITE IN FACING CHALLENGES

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Inclusiveness is important in helping the country to recover from the pandemic, says PM

KUALA NERUS

THE Keluarga Malaysia concept calls on the people to put aside all differences and together mobilise their energy in facing challenges as a family, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said that the inclusive nature of the concept, which transcends religion and ethnicity, was important in helping the country to recover from the pandemic.

"When we all have common ground, it will unite the people in achieving economic prosperity and political stability.

"Prosperity and stability are what we will leave behind to our grandchildren in the future," he said in his speech at the *Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia* or Malaysian Family Aspirations (AKM) Tour at the Terengganu Sports Complex here yesterday.

The Education Ministry was chosen to lead the programme, with the main theme being *Keluarga Malaysia Keluarga Berilmu*.

Ismail Sabri said the govern-

ment was aware of the importance of education to the future of Keluarga Malaysia.

Therefore, he said it had allocated RM5.034 billion for school and educational institution projects nationwide under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

He said there were 79 new and extension projects for the development of schools and educational institutions in Terengganu, at a total cost of RM914.79 million.

"Of this number, 42 projects have been completed, 18 are in the implementation or construction stage, and 19 are in pre-construction status," he said.

Ismail Sabri also hoped that the aspects of inclusion, togetherness and gratitude in Keluarga Malaysia's pluralistic society promoted in the AKM Tour would continue to be practised regardless of religious and racial sentiments.

"As the Malay saying goes: '*Keluarga tak selalu bererti saudara sedarah*' (Family isn't always about blood). It is often a reflection of a community, organisation or nation.

"I hope that Keluarga Malaysia can take advantage of the opportunities available in the AKM Tour.

"Thank you to the people of Terengganu for the encouraging response and the strong commitment shown by the state government," he said.

The closing of the Terengganu AKM Tour was also attended by

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar and Senior Education Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin.

Ismail Sabri said Terengganu had undergone rapid transformation with the implementation of projects worth hundreds of millions of ringgit.

He said the oil and gas industry, especially in Kerteh and Kemaman, was the backbone of the state's economy, which not only attracted foreign investors, but also increased local employment opportunities.

He highlighted the 665km-long East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) connecting Selangor with Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan.

He said ECRL, which was expected to be completed by the end of 2026, would shorten travel time from the Klang Valley to the state from seven hours to four.

"It will also stimulate Terengganu's economic growth, especially in the construction and services sectors because the ECRL infrastructure covers 70 per cent of cargo services, which facilitates the transportation of construction materials across the state."

He also said oil and gas revenue had enabled Terengganu to develop other sectors, including tourism.

He said through the Beautiful Terengganu campaign, he was confident that the target of attracting three million tourists this year could be realised.

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