

## MIDDLE GROUND

# GOVT ALLOWS RM10,000 EPF WITHDRAWAL

Ismail Sabri urges contributors to if maintain savings unless situation is urgent

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**T**HE government has agreed to allow a special withdrawal by contributors from their Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

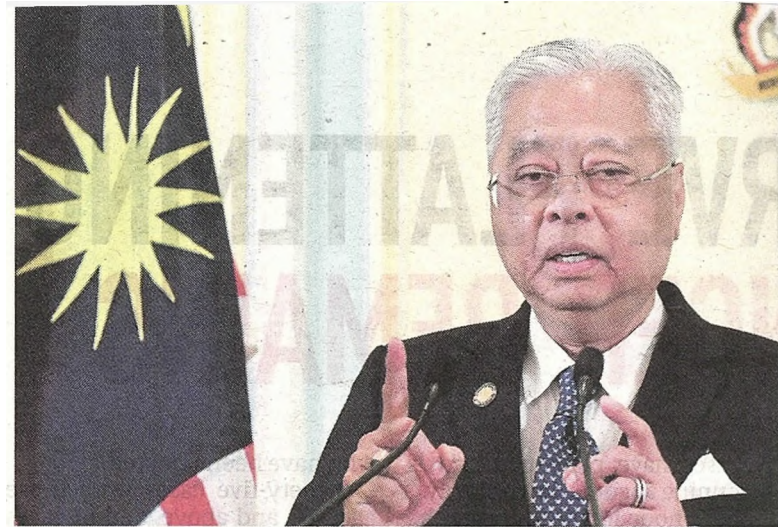
Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, in a press conference yesterday, said the amount was set at RM10,000.

He said details of the withdrawal would be announced by the Finance Ministry and EPF soon.

Ismail Sabri said it was a difficult decision to allow another withdrawal as it involved people's old age savings.

"(So) this special withdrawal is a middle ground in balancing between today's urgent needs and future savings.

"However, based on a study



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announcing the EPF withdrawal in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

done during the recovery phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, there were families who were still affected. They may have lost their income or were in the process of rebuilding their lives.

"As the government, we listened, studied and scrutinised the request from all parties to allow this EPF withdrawal.

"So today, the government has agreed to allow a special EPF withdrawal of RM10,000.

"Although the government has permitted this EPF withdrawal, I am appealing to contributors to maintain their savings unless the

situation is urgent.

"I hope contributors will make due consideration before making the withdrawal, for the sake of their future."

The government had allowed EPF withdrawals through three schemes — i-Lestari, i-Sinar and i-Citra — amounting to RM101 billion, involving 7.34 million contributors since the pandemic hit two years ago.

*Page one pic: ^4 woman checking her phone near the EPF building in Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.*