

I am a party man, says Ismail Sabri

KUALA LUMPUR: In a show of steadfast loyalty, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said he is a true-blue Umno man and has delivered on all matters entrusted to him by the party as Prime Minister.

The Umno vice-president said he always made sure that the party's struggles were championed under his administration of the country.

"I carry the Umno identity in me. Ismail Sabri is nothing without all you ladies and gentlemen in Umno.

"Whatever that is decided in the Cabinet, I always ensure Umno's voice and views are given priority to protect the people's interest.

"As a party man, it is most important for me to fulfil the party's objectives," Ismail Sabri said in his winding-up address yesterday.

Since he became Prime Minister in August last year, Ismail Sabri said the government had achieved many successes with Barisan Nasional back at the helm.

In its meeting on Aug 27 last year, he said the Umno supreme council outlined several things for him to carry out as premier.

"With the support of my fellow Cabinet mates from Umno, I have delivered on all that was requested.

"Top on the list was to adhere to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's call to have bipartisan cooperation.

"We did this by signing an MOU with Pakatan Harapan, which helped bring down the political temperature.

"Second was for the government to focus on Covid-19 management, and we have done this by boosting our vaccination rate, with 98.5% of the population fully vaccinated," he said.

The other requests were for the government to help small and medium entrepreneurs and to rebrand the government as Keluarga Malaysia, he added.

Ismail Sabri said the party's demands for Parliament to be strengthened and for investigations into former attorney general Tan Sri Tommy Thomas had also been fulfilled.

"Last August, a special committee was set



Stronger together: Ismail Sabri with Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and deputy president Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan at the General Assembly held at World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. - FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

up to investigate the revelations in Thomas' book," he said, referring to the lawyer's autobiography, *My Story: Justice in the Wilderness*.

"The interim report on the investigation will be presented next month. I promise that action will be taken against the former AG if we discover any wrongdoing," he added.

Ismail Sabri also said the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Tabung Haji issue should be able to wrap up its probe in July.

On investigations into the death of fireman Muhammad Adib Mohd Kassim, Ismail Sabri said the interim report was presented on March 15.

"Although the investigation is ongoing, the

government has given Muhammad Adib's family ex-gratia of RM1.5mil. This is proof of Umno's commitment towards the people's wellbeing," he added.

The general assembly was being held for the first time since Ismail Sabri took over as Prime Minister.