

ISMAIL SABRI FETES THOUSANDS

Ismail Sabri glad to see multiracial crowd at Raya open house after two-year hiatus

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob is pleased with the multiracial crowd, including the Orang Asli community, who attended his Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house at Dataran Kerayong here yesterday.

Thousands of people dressed in traditional attire attended the four-term Bera member of parliament's open house, hosted for the first time in the constituency since he was appointed the ninth prime minister last August.

Ismail Sabri said the open house, held after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, had become a tradition, as attendees included not just his constituents, but also people from neighbouring districts.

"Villagers and Felda settlers in my constituency helped prepare dishes for the open house.

"One village prepared *lemang* and another made *laksa*. Each village set up their own stalls. This is the tradition for the Aidilfitri open house here every year.

"This open house has allowed people from various races and ethnic groups to gather as one huge Keluarga Malaysia," he said at the open house yesterday.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob greeting a guest at his Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house in Bera yesterday.
PIX BY FARIZUL HAFIZ AWANG

Ismail Sabri reminded the people to continue practising self-discipline even as the government eased the face mask mandate for outdoor areas.

"Despite the relaxation of rules for face masks, I still wear one when meeting people at the open house. People should continue to wear face masks in crowded public places."

The open house was scheduled to begin at 9am, but guests started arriving much earlier to get a seat under the canopies as they waited for the arrival of Ismail Sabri and his wife, Datin Seri Muhaini Zainal Abidin.

Clad in a green *baju melayu*, Is-

mail Sabri arrived at 9.35am. Hundreds of guests converged near the main entrance to greet him.

While visiting the food stalls, Ismail Sabri posed for photographs with guests and spoke to people, including children.

There were 32 booths serving popular Hari Raya delicacies, set up by traders from villages in the constituency.

The open house, which ended at 2pm, featured cultural and musical performances.

Ismail Sabri reminded drivers to be safe on the road and take breaks at rest stops if they were tired.

"Our safety on the road lies in our hands. I believe many people

will be travelling today and tomorrow to return to work this week.

"If you feel exhausted or sleepy after a long drive, pull over to rest and continue after the break. Do not push yourself hoping to reach your destination faster.

"If anything unexpected happens, you may reach much later or not at all."

He said discipline on the road was vital to ensure everyone's safety when large number of vehicles are on the highways at the same time.

"Motorists have to be extra vigilant and must always think about their families and loved ones. Ac-

cidents can happen anywhere."

On efforts to tackle the traffic congestion in future, Ismail Sabri said the Transport Ministry, Works Ministry and Malaysian Highway Authority would have to study long-term plans to address the issue.

On Thursday, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Razarudin Husain said Selangor recorded the highest number of road crashes and fatalities, with 2,448 accidents and 16 deaths logged during Op Selamat up to Friday.

He said 113 road accident deaths were recorded nationwide under Op Selamat, which was launched on April 29.