

PM URGES YOUTH TO UTILISE GOVT AID

He also reminds young voters to equip themselves with parliamentary democracy insight

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WITH the growing number of registered youth voters, Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob hopes the younger generation will equip themselves with more knowledge on parliamentary democracy.

In his speech at the 2022 Na-

tional Youth Day, Ismail Sabri reminded youth of the importance of such knowledge as it is a crucial tool in performing their responsibilities as voters.

To alleviate their post-Covid-19 pandemic burdens, the prime minister said the government was drafting the National Youth Economic Empowerment Plan for a strategic direction in improving youth marketability and economic levels.

At the same time, Ismail Sabri said the Youth and Sports Ministry was planning a National Youth Award this year, comprising seven categories including environmental sustainability, techno design, social media influence, entrepreneurship and disabled youth icons.

The Bera member of parliament also urged the younger generations to fully utilise all assis-

tance provided by the government through the more than 20 initiatives presented in the 2022 Budget.

“Firstly, the JaminKerja Keluarga Malaysia and JaminKerja Job Fair, which was launched on Feb 19, is based on the concept of ‘job guarantee’ with the commitment of producing 600,000 jobs especially for the youth with a RM4.8 billion allocation.

“Also, RM1.2 billion was allocated for various initiatives for the benefit of youths, including the ePemula Programme for two million youths aged 18 to 20, or full-time students studying diploma or Sijil Kemahiran Malaysia 4 levels, or those studying at any public and private institutes of higher learning.

“The RM300 million Transaction Without Cash Scheme, which aims to lessen the youth’s

burden and encourage a cashless culture, has been enjoyed by them.

“The government also provides a monthly RM900 incentive to employers who hire school leavers and graduates between the ages of 18 and 30,” he said in his speech aired live on RTM1.

For the young men and women living in the city, Ismail Sabri said the government would ensure they get to own a house through the “One Family One House” aspiration, adding that Putrajaya would also empower transit-oriented homes.

He also called on young entrepreneurs or those who wished to explore the business world to make use of the RM150 million financing plan at Bank Simpanan Nasional and Agrobank.

“The government also offers the PerantiSiswa Keluarga Malaysia

initiative, where every student in the B40 category studying in any higher learning institutions will receive a tablet starting this June.

“About 350,000 students will benefit from this as it would help them in their online learning.

“The government appreciates the outstanding achievements of the country’s athletes on the international stage, which is on average lined by the youth, making up 31.6 per cent of national athletes.

“Therefore, the government has agreed to continue the Podium Programme until 2025 with a total allocation of RM249 million for four years.”

With this year’s National Youth Day theme being “This Is Our Time”, he urged the younger generations to appreciate and fully use the time they have now to ensure a better future ahead.