

'NO AP NEEDED TO IMPORT FOOD'

Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry to make an announcement on this soon, says PM

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THE government has decided to do away with approved permits (AP) for Malaysians to import

food, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said.

With this decision, the prime minister said anyone could now import food into the country without having to obtain an AP.

"The Agriculture (and Food Industries) Ministry will make an announcement on this in detail soon but basically, we agreed to do away with the AP for food,



Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin speaking to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob at the Prime Minister's Department Aidilfitri celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. With them is Home Minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin (left). PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

effective immediately.

"We previously had AP for everything, from cows to meat and others but now, it is no more.

"This means anyone can import food from overseas to ensure that the country will always have sufficient food supply," he said at

the Prime Minister's Department Aidilfitri celebration here yesterday.

At yesterday's cabinet meeting, Ismail Sabri said issues surrounding the people's cost of living took centre stage as the country was expected to face inflation around

the middle of this year.

He said the Russia-Ukraine war largely contributed to today's weak economy and the rising cost of living and assured that Putrajaya was taking necessary steps to help cushion the impact on Malaysians.

"Earlier in the cabinet (meeting), we discussed firstly, the cost of living and secondly, on food security.

"The cabinet has agreed and asked the Agriculture (and Food Industries) Ministry to take immediate action because we want to make sure that any impact caused by the war is something we can handle."

Previously, several consumer groups and prominent individual in the business sector, such as Mydin hypermarket managing director Datuk Dr Ameer Ali Mydin, urged the government to review the award of AP for the importation of various food items.

Among others, the consumer groups urged Putrajaya to be transparent in the awarding of AP to import whole chicken as some companies failed to get any response from the government regarding their applications.

Page 1 pic: A customer waiting to pay for groceries at a hypermarket in Subang Jaya, Selangor.