

PM: National Fire and Rescue Policy will create a resilient community

KERALA BATAS: The National Fire And Rescue Policy 2021-2030 will improve efficiency and professionalism through strategic programmes and action plans involving all levels of “Keluarga Malaysia”.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said he was confident that the policy, enacted by the Housing and Local Government Ministry and the Fire and Rescue Department, will create a resilient community that could adapt to the concept of citizen lifesavers, especially in facing emergencies or disasters.

“This policy involves commitment from all quarters to forge a strategic cooperation with the security industry and the Fire and Rescue Department.

“This can add a new dimension to the country’s development and economic competitiveness,” he said at the launch of the World International Firefighters Day 2022 celebration here yesterday.

Present were Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican and Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Mohammad Hamdan Wahid.

Ismail Sabri said a focus on fire protection through the use of the latest technology, such as automation and robotics, would increase confidence not only among the people, but also industry players and investors.

“I am optimistic that through the policy, all members of the ministry, especially the Fire and Rescue Department, will manifest their commitment in realising the aspiration of a more dynamic and progressive fire and rescue delivery service.”

On welfare, he said the government had approved an application for a Special Skill Allowance for officers serving as trainers and educators at the Fire and Rescue Academy.

He said although he had re-

ceived applications for the rate to be set at RM300 for incentives for trainers and educators, he felt the rate was unsuitable.

As such, he added, he instructed the Public Services Department to increase the allowance.

“Firstly, the payment for Hazmat incentives will involve a rate of RM30 for each operation (with a maximum of RM600 a month), and secondly, the incentive for water rescues will involve a rate of RM30 per operation (with a maximum of RM600 a month).

“Thirdly, the incentive payment for EMRS will now involve a prorated payment (with a maximum of RM150 a month), and finally, the special driver allowance, also a prorated payment (with a maximum of RM150 a month).

“The approval of these allowances will benefit 114 officers from Grade KB19 to KB38 working as trainers and educators at the academy.

It is hoped that with this approval, trainers and educators will continue to increase their commitment and work quality towards producing a more capable manpower.”

Ismail Sabri said the government had approved a development allocation under the Sec-

ond Rolling Plan 2022 worth RM132.4 million to the Fire and Rescue Department.

“This involves the procurement of fire engines, utility vehicles, fire forensic vehicles, Personal Protective Equipment and others to increase the department’s efficiency.”