

# Fire and Rescue Dept to get RM132mil development allocation

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**KEPALA BATAS:** The Fire and Rescue Department will get RM132.4mil in development allocation under the Second Rolling Plan (RP2) 2022, says the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the fund would be for training and the firemen's welfare.

"This includes acquiring machinery and vehicles as well as personal protective equipment and the latest software to deliver better services while handling emergencies.

"There are currently 18 new stations being constructed and once completed, this would help reduce response time," he said in his speech during the national level World Firemen Day at Dewan Milenium in Bertam here yesterday.

He added that in terms of welfare, the government had approved a special skill allowance to officers serving as trainers and educators at



**Attention!:** Ismail Sabri inspecting a guard of honour during World Firemen Day in Kepala Batas. - ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

the Fire and Rescue Academy.

"Although we initially received an application of RM300, I felt the rate was inappropriate and have

instructed the Public Service Department to increase the allowance," he said.

Other allowances include an

incentive payment to the Hazardous Materials Unit (Hazmat) and Water Rescue Unit of RM30 per operation and up to RM600 monthly, as well as incentive for the Emergency Rescue Services (EMRS) that will be paid a pro-rated payment of up to RM150 monthly.

"The approved allowances will benefit 114 officers, from grade KB19 to KB38, who are serving at five academies nationwide," said Ismail Sabri.

It was his first official visit to Penang since he was appointed the ninth Prime Minister in August last year.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, who was also present at the World Firemen Day event, thanked the "red warriors" for their dedication to the people.

"I applaud the firemen for their fast response in life and death situations. They are the first line in emergencies and disasters.

"This celebration is to recognise the dedication of over 13,000 permanent firemen, 2,000 auxiliary firemen and 13,000 voluntary firemen in the country," he added.

Reezal Merican said last year, the department received 167,989 emergency cases, an increase of 34.83% from 2020.

"A total of RM1.76bil worth of losses and RM8.86bil of assets saved were recorded," he added.

Also launched at the event, which was attended by 5,000 people, was the National Firemen and Rescue Policy 2021-2030.

Reezal Merican said the new policy focuses on the country and community as a whole, based on four cores: Safe Environment, Safe Practices and Culture, Inclusive Strategic Partnership, as well as Capacity and Ability Reinforcement.

Also present was Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia director-general Datuk Mohammad Hamdan Abdul Wahid.