

KERATAN AKHBAR

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PM: MORE HELP FOR THE PEOPLE

Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat phase 3, loss of income aid to be distributed

PUTRAJAYA

AS payments begin for the Special Covid-19 Aid (BKC) yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government will channel more assistance to the people next month.

In a video conference with Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) staff from his residence in Petaling Jaya to check on the payment process, Ismail Sabri said BKC was among the assistance to help ease the burden of people affected by Covid-19.

"I hope all the BKC payments planned by the Finance Ministry will run smoothly. Hopefully, nothing untoward happens that can cause delays and so on," he said.

Ismail Sabri, who was still undergoing self-quarantine since Aug 30 after coming in close contact with a Covid-19 case, also advised BSN staff to ensure that BKC recipients who come to collect the aid complied with standard operating procedures (SOP) to prevent Covid-19 transmission.

Joining the video conference were Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, who was at a BSN branch here, and Deputy Finance Minister Mohd Shahar Abdullah, who was at a BSN branch in Bera, Pahang.

"Hopefully, what the government is giving today, although it may not be much, at least it can help reduce the people's burden," said Ismail Sabri.

On Wednesday, Ismail Sabri announced that the BKC would be paid in stages with phase one payments credited from Sept 6 to Sept 10, with funds amounting to RM3.1 billion already allocated for payments.

The BKC is an assistance for the hard-

core poor — B40 households with monthly income of RM5,000 and below, and senior citizens, as well as singles with a monthly income of RM2,500 and below, based on the eligibility criteria under the Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat (BPR 2021) aid package.

Those in the M40 group who reported income tax with a household income of RM5,001 to RM9,000, or RM2,501 to RM5,000 for singles, were also eligible.

Under the BKC, hardcore poor households will receive RM1,300, while senior citizens and singles will get RM500.

For the B40 category, households will receive RM800, and eligible senior citizens and singles will receive RM200.

And for those in the M40 category, households will receive RM250, and senior citizens and singles will get RM100.

Later, in a posting on his official Facebook page, Ismail Sabri said he had the opportunity to virtually review the BKC phase one payment process, which would be implemented in stages through selected financial institutions involving the RM3.1 billion allocation.

Ismail Sabri said he was informed that the Finance Ministry would facilitate aid distribution to the rural community by paying cash to BKC recipients who did not have a bank account.

"I hope this assistance can alleviate the burden of the 'Malaysian Family' affected by the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

Meanwhile, Tengku Zafrul said the government would distribute various forms of assistance that had been planned until the end of this year.

"The prime minister has agreed to proceed with the assistance," he said.

They include Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat phase 3 amounting to RM2.32 billion, which will be channelled at the end of this month, and loss of income assistance next month.

On the BKC payment process at BSN Putrajaya, Tengku Zafrul said it was handled well by the BSN staff. **Bernama**