

KERATAN AKHBAR

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BANTUAN KHAS COVID-19

PM: COVID-19 AID PAYMENTS FROM SEPT 6

Ismail Sabri says RM3.1b channelled to banks by Finance Ministry yesterday

KUALA LUMPUR

PAYMENTS for Bantuan Khas Covid-19 (BKC) aid will be made from Sept 6, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

"I was informed of the delay in BKC payments, which were supposed to be made in August. I have instructed the Finance Ministry to expedite it.

"A total of RM3.1 billion has been channelled to banking institutes today (yesterday)," he said in a statement.

Ismail Sabri, who chaired his first cabinet meeting via video conference yesterday, said the first phase of BKC payments would be made between Sept 6 and 10, while subsequent payments would be according to schedule.

He said the aid to 10 million recipients, including the hardcore poor, B40, M40 and other groups, was part of the Pakej Perlindungan Rakyat dan Pemulihan Ekonomi (Pemulihan) that was announced on June 28.

"I'm always alert to the grouses of the people, and I hope the BKC would ease the burden of those affected by Covid-19."

Hardcore poor households will receive RM1,300 in two RM500 payments and one of RM300. Senior citizens who are living alone and bachelors who earn less than RM2,500 a month will receive

RM500, with payments to be made in two instalments.

RM100 will be distributed to M40 individuals with household monthly income of between RM5,001 and RM9,000 and bachelors with monthly income of between RM2,501 and RM5,000 (as per income tax records).

Earlier, Bernama reported that Ismail Sabri would table the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) in Parliament on Sept 27.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the 12MP was almost completed, adding that the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) would brief the prime minister accordingly.

He said this after clocking in to start his duties at the EPU yesterday.

Mustapa said the tabling of the 12MP and the 2022 Development Budget would be the EPU's main focus for the next 100 days.

Under the 12MP, the key issues to be addressed in the next five years were bridging the development gap between the states and areas in the country.

"We have identified six states which are a little behind (in terms of development), including Sabah and Sarawak.

"Additionally, we will also focus on addressing the income gap between the B40, M40 and T20 groups, especially those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic."