

KERATAN AKHBAR

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PM wants states to speed up land approvals for federal projects



SHORT CUT ... Villagers in Pengkalan Balang, Tanjung Embang, Sejingkat, near Kuching use the services of a boat to transport their motorcycles across the Sarawak River to the Cat City. -- **BERNAMAPIX**

PM wants states to speed up land approvals for federal projects

KUALA LUMPUR: State governments should prioritise and expedite approval for land acquisition applications for federal government projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said this is one of the decisions made at the Meeting of Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers which he chaired in Putrajaya yesterday.

He said land for alignment-related projects should be approved through reservation, while those meant for operations centres or stations shall be approved through vesting.

"The meeting decided that state governments should also help resolve all issues on state-owned land involved in government projects for the people," Bernama reported him as saying in a statement.

He said further discussions would be held pertaining to the land premiums or taxes to be charged by the state government in accordance with the provisions under the National Land Council.

He said the government is

responsible for providing quality infrastructures for all Malaysians in a bid to stimulate the country's economic growth, but land issues had caused delays in government projects which inadvertently gave financial implications to the government.

In the statement, Ismail Sabri also informed that the Keluarga Malaysia Hardcore Poverty Eradication Programme would be implemented starting next month, involving 480 pioneer localities nationwide and the participation of all quarters, especially state governments.

He said the programme would adopt several approaches, including setting up poverty eradication units at the federal, state and district levels, creating an integrated and centralised poverty database, enhancing bottom-up programme through a whole-of-nation approach, and implementing poverty eradication at the grassroots level.

"The programme is in line with the policy and new strategies to eradicate hardcore poverty under the 12MP (12th Malaysia Plan)," he said.