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Land lots to solve FELDA housing issues

LAND LOTS TO SOLVE FELDA HOUSING ISSUES

3,200 lots to be provided to second generation of Felda settlers, says Ismail Sabri

KOTA TINGGI

A TOTAL of 3,200 land lots are being provided for the second generation of Felda settlers in Johor in a bid to resolve part of the housing issues in Felda areas.

For that purpose, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the federal and state governments had also agreed to jointly set aside allocation totalling RM60 million to develop the infrastructure in those areas. "This is a new concept. We no longer sell ready-made houses but land lots to the second generation of Felda settlers for them to build their own houses with the state government providing the land and we (federal government) help in developing the infrastructure."

"The government agreed that RM30 million for the cost for infrastructure development will be borne by the federal government and Felda and the other RM30 million by the state government," he said after the presentation of the state-level Prosperous Malaysian Family Rukun Tetangga Community (KRT) grants at Felda Lok Heng Barat Community Sports Hall here yesterday.

He said by providing the land



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob at the presentation of the state-level Prosperous Malaysian Family Rukun Tetangga Community (KRT) grants at Felda Lok Heng Barat Community Sports Hall in Kota Tinggi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

lots, part of the housing issues that had been plaguing the second generation of Felda settlers could be resolved and hence, smoothen the implementation of development plans in Felda areas.

Ismail Sabri said to resolve water woes in Felda Kota Tinggi and its surrounding areas, the government had approved an allocation of RM41 million to upgrade the Air Gembut water treatment plant, which would channel water directly to Lok Heng water treatment plant.

"The same goes with the effort to resolve telecommunication issues as the government had discussed with the telecommunication companies and agreed to build a cellular phone substation.

"An elephant sanctuary will al-

so be built and is expected to be ready by 2025 to resolve the issue of elephants roaming around and damaging the crops in Felda areas," he said.

He said Felda had also agreed to donate RM10 million to the Youth Entrepreneurs Fund since many settlers had also ventured into entrepreneurship, and to appoint youth representatives as members of Felda board of directors.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri also reminded political parties contesting in the Johor state election not to play up Felda issues as their campaign material and as an attempt to manipulate the minds of the settlers and their second generation.

"Felda issues have been purposely used as campaign material in Kota Tinggi as 80 per cent of the voters are Felda settlers

and Johor is the second-largest Felda site after Pahang. Felda settlers are Malay voters and they are usually loyal to the (previous) Barisan Nasional government. That's why Felda is like a fixed deposit for Umno and certain parties are trying to manipulate the issues, which I think is not right," he said.

At the event, Ismail Sabri said he wanted the Rukun Tetangga Community (KRT) volunteers to always be sensitive and keep abreast with the current developments, as well as stay close to the heart of Malaysian Family, to face today's issues and challenges.

He said KRT or Rukun Tetangga, established in 1975, had served as a platform for community unification and to ensure the safety of the people, and its func-

tion has since been expanded to include strengthening the neighbourhood spirit as well as peace, wellbeing and economic prosperity.

He said there were currently 8,330 KRTs nationwide and in Johor alone, there were 837 KRTs.

"I believe many have been involved as members of Rukun Tetangga. I also used to be a member of Rukun Tetangga in my community area. Because of that, the role of KRT is very important to ensure the safety of the community," he said.

Ismail Sabri said the National Unity Ministry had introduced a clear and comprehensive direction for Rukun Tetangga through the Rukun Tetangga Leadership Empowerment Plan 2021-2030, in efforts to provide quality and excellent services to the community.

He said the ministry had also implemented programmes and initiatives in supporting the spirit of the Malaysian Family, which was carried out through the Rukun Tetangga community work for those affected by various disasters.

Ismail Sabri said the government always recognised and appreciated the services and sacrifices of Rukun Tetangga volunteers who acted as the frontliners to help the government ensure the community's safety, harmony and wellbeing.

Ismail Sabri said this year, the government provided the Rukun Tetangga grant amounting to RM50 million to strengthen the role of KRT in the community, through the implementation of the KRT work agenda. **Bernama**