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Hardcore poverty blitz from April

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SIX PHASES

HARDCORE POVERTY BLITZ FROM APRIL

Plan to eradicate hardcore poverty by 2025 will begin with 480 localities nationwide, says PM

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THE government's Keluarga Malaysia hardcore poverty eradication programme (BMTKM) that will begin next month will cover 480 pioneer localities nationwide, with the cooperation of all levels, including state governments. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the programme would be implemented through several approaches, such as the establishment of poverty units at the federal, state and district levels, setting up integrated and cen-

tralised databases on poverty, improving bottom-up approach in programmes through the whole-of-nation approach and addressing the root causes of poverty.

He said BMTKM was in line with policies and strategies to eradicate hardcore poverty outlined under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

"The programme, with the aim of eradicating hardcore poverty by 2025, will start with Phase 1 involving 80 pioneer localities nationwide. Phases 2 and 3 will start in September and December, respectively," he said after chairing a menteri besar and chief ministers meeting yesterday.

Phases 4 to 6 would be implemented next year.

During the meeting, five papers were presented on the close cooperation between federal and state governments to ensure the Keluarga Malaysia agenda for the people's wellbeing would be implemented successfully.

"Among the agenda at today's (yesterday's) discussion is the

joint commitment of the federal and state governments on land acquisition for public infrastructure development," Ismail Sabri said.

"The government is responsible for providing quality infrastructure for Keluarga Malaysia to promote economic growth."

He said land issues had previously caused delays and financial losses for the government.

He said in the 12MP, the government emphasised high-impact infrastructure projects like the East Coast Rail Link, Gemas-Johor Baru electrified double-track project, Rapid Transit System, West Coast Expressway, Central Spine Road and Kota Baru-Kuala Krai Expressway.

He said the projects would have spillover effects in the states involved.

"At the meeting, it was decided that state governments need to prioritise and expedite approval of land acquisition for federal projects.

"Project sites for the approved

alignment will be approved on reserve basis, while operation centres, offices or stations will be approved through awarding of land ownership."

He said state governments would help settle land issues for public projects. He said further discussions would be held on premium rates and taxes to be imposed by state governments in line with standards set by the National Land Council.

He said it was agreed at the meeting that there would be more engagement sessions between federal and state governments on development projects in the states.

On measures to mitigate the impact of uncertain weather brought about by global warming, Ismail Sabri said the government had drawn up 11 short-term and nine long-term initiatives.

He said the initiatives include improving flood mitigation infrastructure, like pumps, flood gates and generator sets, with the cooperation of state governments.

Other initiatives include maintaining, deepening and cleaning irrigation and flood retention systems, upgrading 516 siren stations, constructing 361 siren stations and upgrading 155 web camera stations.

"A hundred weather observation stations will be upgraded and be equipped with high-tech equipment that can make reliable real-time forecasts and warnings.

"The myCuaca app will be enhanced to disseminate critical information efficiently and effectively to the Malaysian Family."

He said long-term strategies include developing a law to empower the water sector to adapt to climate change.

Here said other long-term plans include adopting nature-based solutions, such as the development of river trails as a platform for public engagement, increasing the capacity of flood retention ponds and enhancing implementation of the joint approach in river basin management.