

KERATAN AKHBAR

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National centre to be set up for SDG programmes

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► Move given nod to empower, keep tabs on progress of nation's sustainable development goals, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will set up a sustainable development goals (SDG) centre to empower SDG programmes in the country and to keep track of their progress, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the centre's establishment under the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department was given the 'nod' during the National SDG Council meeting which he chaired on Monday.

"This sustainable development agenda requires comprehensive and inclusive involvement, as well as efforts from all parties to raise the level of awareness among Keluarga Malaysia at the grassroots level and also among private companies," he said in a statement yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the meeting had also agreed on voluntary local reviews (VLR) at the local authority, municipal and district councils as well as state government levels, for which a

minimum of one report must be provided by each state.

He said each state is encouraged to prepare the VLR as a guide to monitor Malaysia's progress to achieve social, environmental and economic balance.

He added that the Environment and Water Ministry has also been asked to finalise a carbon market framework at the end of this year to help the transition of Malaysia to a low-carbon nation.

Ismail Sabri chaired the National SDG Council meeting for the first time since its establishment in 2016, Bernama reported.

The meeting, which discussed the country's sustainable development agenda, involved stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academics and civil society organisations.

Council members include mentris besar and chief ministers, ministers, secretaries-

general and heads of departments, cluster leaders of the SDG Working Committee and several MPs.

The SDGs are being implemented in three phases according to national development plans, starting with the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) from 2016 to 2020, the current 12MP (2021-2025) and 13MP (2025-2030).

Malaysia's SDG progress report is carried out every four years, in line with the United Nations recommendation that reports be presented periodically through a voluntary national review (VNR).

Ismail Sabri said Malaysia had presented the VNR in 2017 and 2021 at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to fulfil the country's obligations at the global level, where the VNR provides inclusive reports on the country's progress and challenges in implementing the SDGs at the national level.

He said the meeting also took note of current global and local challenges and situations as well as the decline in several countries' SDG achievements due to the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, challenges of global climate change, inflation crisis and international geopolitical turmoil.