

No discrimination when issuing compounds, says PM

By Adib Povera - February 14, 2022



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said there was no need for the minister who violated the SOP to resign from his post since it was not tantamount to committing a criminal offence. - NSTP file pic.

SHAH ALAM: Compounds slapped against several Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders, including a senior minister, for violating Covid-19 prevention standard operating procedures (SOP) in Johor recently is proof the government is fair to all.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob also said there was no need for the minister who breached the SOP to resign since such action is not tantamount to a criminal offence.

He however stressed that it was important for all to comply with the SOP to curb the spread of Covid-19. "What is important is that we have taken the necessary action and there is no concept of upper-class or those belonging to the 'kayangan' group being spared.

"And the compound issued against them (BN leaders) shows that the government does not differentiate people when it comes to enforcing the SOPs.

"Irrespective of whether you are a minister, deputy minister, head of department and others, compounds will be issued against you if you fail to comply with the SOP," he told reporters here today.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on the calls made by several opposition MPs for the minister caught violating the SOP to resign.

It was reported that Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin had instructed for compounds to be issued against several BN leaders for violating the SOP at an event in Johor yesterday.

Among them was BN treasurer-general Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, who is also the Senior Defence Minister.

Khairy, on his official Twitter account, said the compound will be issued under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342).

"I have instructed the Health Ministry officers to issue compounds to BN treasurer-general Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, Johor BN chairman Datuk Hasni Mohammad, MIC president Tan Sri S.A Vigneswaran and the event organiser under Act 342.

"The Health Ministry will continue to monitor the SOP during Johor State Election," said Khairy, commenting on a video of BN leaders' arrival at the launch of the Johor MIC Brigade at EduCity in Kota Iskandar, Johor, which drew flak for lack of physical distancing, and large crowds gathering at one place.

On the SOP for the Johor state election, Ismail Sabri said it will be issued by the Election Commission (EC).

"EC is an independent body and we (the government) will not involve in the preparation of the SOP (for the Johor state election).

"However, I believe that EC will obtain views from the Health Ministry in the formulation of the SOP and they will announce it once it is ready. So let us wait for the announcement," he said.