



*PRESS*  
**RELEASE**  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD.100/2/1/2 JLD 3 ( ) 02/12 (BI)

**14<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING (ADMM),  
7<sup>TH</sup> ADMM-PLUS & RELATED MEETINGS, 9 & 10 DECEMBER 2020**

---

The Senior Minister of Defence, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob has led Malaysia's delegation to the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus via video conference. The meetings, held from 9 to 10 December 2020, were hosted by Viet Nam as the ASEAN Chair 2020.

The 14<sup>th</sup> ADMM held on 9 December 2020 discussed various matters relating to regional defence cooperation, including five new regional initiatives for adoption by the Ministers. These include the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (AMRG on HADR), of which Malaysia is the proponent. The SOP aims to guide militaries of ASEAN member states in providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the disaster-affected states in the region in a timely and coordinated manner, under a single ASEAN flag. This initiative is hoped to increase ASEAN solidarity in responding to disasters in the region, under the concept of "One ASEAN One Response". The meeting was attended by Defence Ministers of all ASEAN member states and the Secretary General of ASEAN.

The 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus, held on 10 December 2020, was attended by Defence Ministers of all ASEAN member states and eight Plus dialogue partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and United States) as well as the Secretary General of ASEAN. During this meeting, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob reaffirmed the need to ensure that the South China Sea waters must remain free, safe and commercially navigable, without any concerns of militarisation or hostility. He further stressed that the South China Sea should not become a theatre of conflict. He urged all parties to exercise self-restraint and avoid actions that may disrupt the stability of this region.

YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri also emphasised that the Rohingya refugee crisis has indeed caused social and economic hazards both domestically as well

as at international level. This issue should not be shouldered by any single country, in particular Malaysia. He called upon ASEAN member states especially the Plus dialogue partners and international community to undertake joint efforts to help find an effective and everlasting solution to this humanitarian crisis.

YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri also participated in three ASEAN+1 Defence Ministers' Informal Meetings, namely with China, Japan, and the United States at the sidelines of the 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus. He further participated in the commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ADMM-Plus, as well as attended a special session with the guests of chair, namely Canada, European Union, France, Germany, United Kingdom, and United Nations.

YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri's attendance to these events was part of Malaysia's defence diplomacy efforts in promoting defence cooperation through bilateral and multilateral engagements. This also highlights Malaysia's everlasting commitment towards ASEAN as the core platform for regional cooperation. At the same time, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri congratulated Viet Nam for successfully hosting of the meetings as the ASEAN Chair 2020 despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the incoming ASEAN Chair 2021. The 14<sup>th</sup> ADMM and 7<sup>th</sup> ADMM-Plus meetings were concluded with the signing of Joint Declarations. All the leaders agreed that the Joint Declarations cemented the spirit of cooperation among ASEAN member states and between its Plus dialogue partners.

**- END -**

**"PERTAHANAN NEGARA TANGGUNGJAWAB BERSAMA"**

---

**Ministry Of Defence Malaysia  
10 DECEMBER 2020**