

KERATAN AKHBAR

NAMA AKHBAR: THE STAR (VIEWS)

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Thanks for the special allowance for firemen

I AM happy that the government has at last approved a special allowance of RM200 a month for Fire and Rescue Department personnel in the 2020 Budget. Some 14,400 personnel stand to benefit. This is a long awaited and well deserved incentive.

I am one of many readers of *The Star* who have been highlighting the service and sacrifice of firefighters and the need to reward them adequately for their contribution for a while now.

We called for an allowance in recognition of the professional skill and capability of our firemen who work in highly dangerous and hazardous situations. In times of disasters and calamities – be it fire, flood, road accidents, landslides or collapsed buildings – they are there to save lives and property. During landslides and road mishaps, the skill of firemen in extricating survivors from the rubble and wreckage is highly commendable.

The unprecedented growth of high-rise commercial complexes, office blocks and multistorey condominiums pose additional danger and greater challenge.

Their unique display of courage and competence in dousing fires in high-rise buildings needs special mention.

They are our unsung heroes.

The incentive will go a long way towards boosting their morale and further enhancing their performance.

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