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Anwar-act

AMENDMENT TO EPF ACT TO BE INTRODUCED IN MARCH

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The amendments to the Employees Provident Act to allow qualified contributors to withdraw money for investments in the equities market will be introduced in Parliament in March, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

"When the proposal was made we were advised that some minor provisions need to be ammended to allow the facilities to be utilised for investment purposes.

"We have to ammend the act this and we propose to introduce the ammendments in this March session," he said in reply to questions at a news conference during a surprise visit to the EPF Head Office at Bangunan KUWASA in Jalan Raja Laut here.

The EPF recently proposed to allow contributors with excess of RM50,000 to withdraw part of their contribution for investments in the equities market through approved fund managers.

On the RM50,000 ceiling, Anwar who is Finance Minister said it was to protect contributors from the lower income group.

The EPF Ordinance 1951 was replaced by the EPF Act 1991 which went into effect on June 1 1991 and the EPF Act (Amendments) 1994.

On the salary adjustment for government employees, Anwar said the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had expressed willingness to expedite payment provided Cuepacs and the Public Services Department (PSD) reached agreement on the matter.

He said the government's limit was RM3 billion, comprising RM1 billion for bonus and RM2 billion for salary adjustment.

"I hope Cuepacs will make immediate decision and discuss with PSD so that question of percentage could be resolved immediately," he said.

--BERNAMA