

13MP allocation for bumiputera highest since Merdeka, PM tells critics

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Bernama

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the allocation for the bumiputera under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) is the highest since Malaysia's independence.

He said the Bumiputera Economic Transformation Plan 2035 (Putera35), introduced under the 13MP, is clear proof of the government's unwavering commitment to strengthening the bumiputera economy.

He also dismissed claims that the unity government prioritises certain communities over others when it comes to allocations.

"We all must examine the 13MP. Otherwise, allegations may arise that allocations are only given to Chinese new villages and not to the bumiputera. This shows that those making such claims have not read the 13MP document.

"Spending for the bumiputera is among the highest, including for the development of Malay reserve land in urban areas. Malaysia has never received an allocation of this scale since independence.

“Only the Madani government has had the courage to implement this. Previously, there was nothing, even though the opposition often champions the Malay cause,” he told the Dewan Rakyat, according to Sinar Harian.

However, Anwar said this approach does not sideline the rights of other communities such as the Chinese, Indians, Orang Asli, and the ethnic groups of Sabah and Sarawak.

While the prime minister did not direct his remarks at any particular individual, Pendang MP Awang Hashim had previously claimed the 13MP failed to include targeted development plans for the bumiputera community.

Speaking in Parliament yesterday, the PAS lawmaker zeroed in on provisions for Chinese new villages, questioning why similar attention wasn’t afforded to bumiputeras while warning the government of a potential repeat of the deadly May 13, 1969, racial riots.

DAP MP RSN Rayer has since filed a motion to refer the opposition figure to Parliament’s Rights and Privileges Committee.

Bumiputera agenda

The 13MP tabled by Anwar on July 31 saw the government continuing the

bumiputera economic agenda while introducing initiatives to uplift the socio-economic status of low-income Chinese and Indians.

Parked under the plan's ninth initiative, Anwar said his Madani government is going with an inclusive approach to make sure the rakyat from every level can enjoy the benefits of Malaysia's development.

Among the bumiputera-centric initiatives that are being continued for the five-year development plan include Majlis Amanah Rakyat, the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit, UiTM and Permodalan Nasional Berhad, which aim at producing more bumiputera professionals.

The plan would also give focus to prepare more bumiputera companies towards getting publicly listed, including organising a business relay race, and provide institutional support for bumiputera entrepreneurs in the supply chain sector with an aim of producing 10 companies worth over RM500 million.

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