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REFORMS AND GROWTH

Anwar foresees economic challenges in 2019

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's greatest challenge next year, which needs great focus, is its economy, said PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"We have to grapple with economic reforms and boost our economic growth," Anwar, who is Port Dickson member of parliament, said at the Parliament lobby yesterday, when asked on what 2019 would be like for Malaysia.

Referring to the problems inherited by the government from

the previous administration, he, however, said the time had come to focus on measures that could spur economic growth.

Anwar said these challenges were highlighted by Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng in his 2019 Budget speech.

He added that there were other issues that needed attention, such as national unity, as well as matters related to race and religion.

"But I think the focus will be on

the economy," he said.

Asked if the economic challenges were due to focus on the Malaysia Development Bhd issue, Anwar said the problems surrounding the sovereign wealth fund were colossal and that it could not be settled in mere months.

He said the investigation into United States bank Goldman Sachs was ongoing, and that fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low, was still on the run.



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

"I don't think we can close the issue (yet)," he said, stating that many might not realise the magnitude of the problem, which required government resources and efforts to at least regain some of the losses incurred.