



MAN OF THE HOUR ... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a media conference after the Cabinet meeting yesterday. With him are (from left) Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil and Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. - **BERNAMAPIC**

ECRL project cost trimmed by RM11b

KUALA LUMPUR: The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project will proceed with its cost reduced by RM11.01 billion from the original RM85.97 billion approved in 2016, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the project's total cost was reduced although there are applications for additional cost following a new realignment and the project is still subject to the old agreement.

"Even though there is additional cost to finance the project's realignment which we have approved, it has enabled the total cost to be reduced by RM11.01 billion," he said after chairing the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Anwar added that the government decided to proceed with the project that was approved previously and did not make many changes as this would delay its implementation and cause difficulties.

"I congratulate the Transport Ministry, Finance Ministry and Works Ministry for helping to assist in expediting the negotiation process, and being able to reduce the total cost compared with that approved in 2016."

The project, spanning 665km and comprising 59 tunnels, includes construction works in four states, namely Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, and Selangor, and is designed to be unaffected by floods. - **Bernama**

National Recovery Council disbanded

PUTRAJAYA: The National Recovery Council has been disbanded as it was among several agencies with overlapping tasks.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the proposal to also disband the National Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Centre, is still under scrutiny.

He said if the functions of the centre could be handled by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission or the police, then the overlapping agencies should be scrapped as each agency

incurs high costs.

"The important thing about the centre is that principles are accepted but there should not be too many," he said after chairing the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The National Recovery Council was established on July 21, 2021, to discuss measures that need to be taken to ensure the success of the National Recovery Plan.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was appointed as the council's chairman in September 2021 by the then prime minister Datuk

Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the former had held the post since its establishment under the Perikatan Nasional government.

The National Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Centre was established in June 2018 to coordinate and monitor all activities concerning governance, integrity and anti-corruption in the country.

Anwar added that he had delegated some of his duties as prime minister to his two deputies, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. - **Bernama**