



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor at the Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house in Alor Star yesterday. With them are Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (left) and Kedah State Secretary Datuk Norizan Khazali. BERNAMA PIC

## MALAYSIA MADANI OPEN HOUSE

# PM: GOVT TO ERADICATE POVERTY

**It will also facilitate Chinese investments in Kulim Hi-Tech Park, says Anwar**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday expressed Putrajaya's commitment to eradicate hardcore poverty in Kedah, as well as facilitate investments from China in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park.

Anwar sought the cooperation of the state government and agencies to achieve the plan through programmes initiated by the federal government.

"This year, we have decided to eradicate extreme poverty. Among the states that have a high number of people living in extreme poverty are Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah.

"We will ensure that (poverty eradication), without exception. *InsyAllah*, this issue will be properly addressed this time and the unity government will eradicate the number of people living in extreme poverty."

He said this at the Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house at Raia Hotel and Convention Centre here.

Present was Sultan of Kedah

Al-Aminul Karim Sultan Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

Anwar said he was seeking the cooperation of the federal and state governments' machineries to achieve the plan.

"It is shameful that a capable country with vast resources, such as oil and gas, palm oil and industries, has failed to resolve hardcore poverty, which is a fundamental issue."

He said he was committed to facilitating investors who had expressed an interest in the Kulim Hi-Tech Park during his visit to China last month.

He said he had informed the sultan of Kedah that the federal government had approved a RM1.6 billion allocation for the state for this year, which was higher than the amount approved by the previous administration.

He said the federal government had approved aid for dilapidated schools and clinics in Kedah, and had allocated funds for water supply projects in several districts.

"In the 2023 Budget, for the first time, we increased the allocation for padi farmers, the highest ever in history, as well as for rubber smallholders and fishermen.

"The amount announced in the budget shows that we do have the capability to overcome this (poverty) if we work together, agree to manage the country's economy, bring in investments and ensure that government spending is focused on the people. That is why we keep on emphasising good governance.

"I believe that Kedah and Malaysia are capable of achieving a prosperous, successful, brilliant and a civilised state status if we can manage it well, reject corruption and abuse of power, while optimising the government machinery to safeguard people's welfare."

Kedah is the first stop of the Malaysia Madani Aidilfitri open house with the prime minister.

The next open house will be at Universiti Teknologi Mara Permatang Pauh in Penang, from 11am to 2pm on May 6, and at Wisma Majlis Bandaraya Seremban the following day from 10.30am to 3pm.

The Kelantan open house will be held on May 12 on the grounds of the Sultan Muhammad IV Stadium in Kota Baru, and the Terengganu open house will be held at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin's Al-Muktafi Billah Shah Hall in Kuala Terengganu on May 13. The finale will be held at the Fasa 3 Commercial Area in Taman Sri Gombak, Batu Caves, Selangor, from 8pm to 11pm on May 14.

Page 1 pic: A dilapidated house with no electricity in Kuala Krai in 2020.