

## HIGHER ALLOCATION GIVEN COMPARED WITH PN

# Anwar pooh-poohs 'Kelantan stepchild' claim

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim dismissed as baseless claims that the unity government had treated Kelantan like a “stepchild”.

Refuting the claim by Bachok member of parliament Mohd Syahir Che Sulaiman, Anwar said the state was given the highest allocation under the 2023 Madani Budget for flood mitigation works, as well to provide clean water for its people.

"This is a baseless claim, one without facts as Kelantan was given the highest allocation compared with other states (under the 2023 Budget).

“As a young leader (in Pas), he (Syahir) should instead be more outspoken in fixing the internal problem (within his party) while also giving solutions (to resolve issues in Kelantan),” Anwar said after attending the 36th Asia-Pacific Roundtable here yesterday.

Syahir made the claim during a debate with Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli on Wednesday.

Syahir was asked to explain why Melaka and Negri Sembilan could flourish compared with Kelantan.

The Pas assistant secretary-general, in reply, said the state was poor due to federalism and denial of rights, including oil royalties.

Anwar also said that the allocation by the current federal government was higher compared with what was given to the state when the government was under Perikatan Nasional (PN).

“Every important suggestion from the Kelantan government has been approved by me.

“In fact, the allocation now is higher than what was given by Bersatu and Pas when they were in the (federal) administration.

“How does this make Kelantan a 'stepchild'?” asked Anwar.