

FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS TO GET SLIGHT PAY RISE IN BUDGET

Marginal increment a temporary move while awaiting salary scheme review, says PM

ADIE ZULKIFLI
LANGKAWI
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Madani government would announce a marginal increment for federal civil servants in the 2024 Budget to be tabled in Parliament in October.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the move was a temporary solution pending the completion of a comprehensive review of the civil servants' salary scheme, which is expected to be completed in the next six months.

"The review process will take

time since it involves hundreds of schemes and one million civil servants. I had a discussion with the chief secretary to the government (Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali), Public Service Department (PSD) director-general (Datuk Dr Zulkapli Mohamed) and the Treasury secretary-general (Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican).

"We have decided that in the Madani (2024) Budget, we will try to implement marginal increments pending the completion of the studies next year," Anwar said at the opening of the Geopark Discovery Centre in Kilim here. Present were Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Langkawi Development Authority co-chairman Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainudin.

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, took a swipe at the previous Perikatan Nasional administration for failing to carry out the studies while in power for three years, causing the increment for civil servants to be delayed for two years.

"The salary scheme for civil



Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the opening of the Geopark Discovery Centre in Langkawi yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

servants should be reviewed every 10 years. This practice has been in place since the time of Tun Abdul Razak Hussein until Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"However, when they (PN) were in power for three years, not only was the scheme not reviewed, they did not even hold a meeting to discuss the matter. Yet, they accuse this prime minister (of being) stupid... indeed, stupid, because he does not steal from the people," he said, in a sarcastic jibe at the opposition.

Anwar added that while the decision on the civil servants' salary increment should depend on the government's financial capability, he insisted that there should be some increment to mitigate the spike in the prices of goods and inflation.

Anwar also announced that the government had approved an allowance for civil servants from the peninsula stationed in Langkawi. This is in line with the allowance approved earlier for Sabahans and Sarawakians based in the peninsula.

Some had asked whether the cost of living for those stationed outside of Langkawi had increased marginally, particularly the cost of air tickets.

"Some were asking... those stationed in Langkawi from outside

the island would see a slight increase in their living expenses, particularly flight tickets. Thus, we have approved the allowance but we have yet to make an official announcement on that."

Anwar also announced that he had instructed Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli to prepare a paper on how the government could help workers in the private sector.

"I have asked the economy minister to study if there is a model in other countries where the government had injected allocation to help workers in the private sector.

"We have reached the final stage of the study. For example, if an employee is earning RM2,000 now, there would be an allocation by the government to top up the monthly salary, let's say by RM100 or RM150.

"It is not going to be easy, particularly in the current economic condition, but no matter how difficult it is, we must manage because the people are burdened and that is why I stress on the importance of bringing about changes," he said.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering a speech at the Grand Finale Kita Selangor event in Ampang on Thursday.