

Plan to raise civil servants' salaries slightly before review

LANGKAWI: The government is trying to slightly raise the salaries of civil servants through the second Madani federal budget which will be tabled in Parliament in October, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said this was a temporary measure until a comprehensive study on the salary and retirement scheme for civil servants was completed.

"While waiting for the study to be completed next year, I will try to increase the salary slightly through the Madani Budget this October," he said in his speech when officiating at the Geopark

Discovery Centre here yesterday, Bernama reported.

Anwar said it had been the government's policy to review the salary scheme for civil servants every 10 years and this should have been done two years ago.

However, the Prime Minister said the previous government did not look into the matter and a meeting to discuss the issue was not even held.

"They have not held a meeting when I checked with the Public Service Department.

"The salary scheme for civil servants is supposed to be reviewed every 10 years and the increment will depend on the

government's financial situation," he said, adding that a slight increment should be given due to inflation.

Anwar said the matter was looked into following a meeting with the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Treasury secretary-general and the Public Service director-general.

"We re-examined the files and as the Finance Minister, I said we must decide on giving salary increments to civil servants, including the police, military personnel as well as Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) staff," he said.

On July 13, the Prime Minister

said there had been a proposal to improve the civil service salary scheme in stages, based on the country's economic capabilities.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the government had also agreed to provide an overseas allowance for civil servants working in Langkawi as enjoyed by civil servants from Sabah and Sarawak working in the peninsula (regional incentive payment).

"There was also a proposal to provide a sea ambulance to cater to the people in Pulau Tuba but I don't think this is the right time for it," he said, referring to the state election.

On Langkawi, Anwar said in an effort to rapidly develop the resort island, government departments and government-linked investment companies (GLICs) must be well-coordinated in implementing certain programmes.

"Big government companies like Tenaga Nasional and Khazanah Nasional must pay attention and have a plan to elevate Langkawi's position as a top tourist destination," he added.

Anwar said the government was in the final stages of its study to provide a financial allocation to help raise the wages of private sector workers.