

# PM: COMPANIES NEED TO PAY FAIR WAGES

Govt's progressive wage scheme will compel them to do so, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government's progressive wage scheme will compel high-profit companies to increase the salaries of private sector workers.

He said such companies needed to pay fair wages to their staff.

"We have a progressive wage

scheme to compel these companies to do so. There are companies which have annual profits of RM1 billion and yet, pay their staff only RM1,800 or RM2,000.

"I have to stress that this is not the Madani way. Madani isn't just about sustainable economic growth. It's also about compassion and care. If we want to employ people, pay them well.

"I'm explaining this in Sabah because this is what makes our policies different from those of the past.

"This is the difference between us and the previous governments. We all want to have a great economy and new industries. But for us, we want reasonable salaries and wages," he said.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said this at the National Hawkers and Small Traders Carnival 2023

at Buhavan Square here yesterday.

Present were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, state ministers and Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick.

Anwar had earlier reiterated the government's decision to revise the salary scheme for civil servants next year as it had remained stagnant for 10 years.

This, he said, was among the key issues being addressed by the unity government.

He also took to task politicians who claimed that the federal allocation for Sabah was lower than other states, such as Penang.

"These claims are not based on facts, but only made to gain support.

"The allocation for development projects for 2024 (in Sabah)

is worth RM6.84 billion, while for Penang, it is RM1.4 billion.

"Why is it higher in Sabah? This is because Sabah has more problems in terms of roads, schools, water supply and electricity. All these need to be improved. It is a joint responsibility of the state and federal government.

"The people of Peninsular Malaysia should not object, but to the people of Sabah, please at least be thankful and do not get angry.

"In one year, the (federal) government has spent RM16.21 billion," he said, adding that several matters related to the Malaysia Agreement 1963, such as the transfer of autonomy on electricity, projects under RM50 million, as well as Sabah and Sarawak representatives in the Inland Rev-

enue Board, had been solved.

Anwar also called on local authorities nationwide to focus on urban development, starting with clean and tidy stalls and kiosks.

He said this emphasis aligned with the popularity of stalls and kiosks as primary locations that attract the public, more than restaurants or hotels in any given area.

Anwar added that facilities for small traders and business owners should be prioritised before implementing major development projects in their respective local authority areas.

"The emphasis on city development should start with stalls and kiosks.

"Ensure that stalls and kiosks are well-managed before considering larger projects."