

## REVAMPING SECURITY FORCES SYSTEM

# TASK FORCE TO SPEED UP PROCUREMENT APPROVALS

Current system is weak and must be revamped, made transparent, says Anwar

### PUTRAJAYA

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said a task force will be set up to speed up pro-

urement approvals for the

country's security forces.

He said Treasury secretary-general Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican had been instructed to monitor the task force to ensure approval for the purpose is expedited.

Speaking at the Finance Ministry monthly assembly here, Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said the procurement system for the security forces needed to be revamped to make it more transparent.

"Last week, I had discussions with friends at the Defence Ministry (Mindef), the Home Ministry and enforcement agencies.



Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Finance Ministry monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are (from second right) Deputy Finance Minister I Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan, Deputy Finance Minister II Steven Sim and Treasury secretary-general Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Certainly, these procurements require huge expenditure.

"The current procurement system is quite weak — only in name, a procurement is made, but goods are not obtained. There are a lot of leakages. It

should be revamped and made more transparent — let the professionals give their views," he said.

Anwar added that the procurement approval for the country's security forces must be ex-

pedited for them to carry out their duties properly.

Meanwhile, the prime minister expressed his appreciation to the staff of the Finance Ministry for their teamwork to help develop the country. **Bernama**