



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly at Dewan De' Seri Endon in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Anwar takes assembly to comfy hail

PUTRAJAYA: The Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly broke away from its tradition of being held at Dataran Perdana in Perdana Putra here yesterday, decades after the opening of the administrative capital.

Yesterday, it took place in the comforts of Dewan De' Seri Endon at Puspanitapuri here after Anwar took pity on his officers, who stood under the scorching sun as he delivered his speech at the meeting last month.

Anwar had asked Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Zuki Ali if the assembly must be held outdoors as he felt guilty for speaking too long under the hot sun.

"Congratulations to Tan Sri KSN (Zuki). He took some time to think (of a venue). Meetings were held twice to determine where this meeting could take place," said Anwar.

Present were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad

Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Others present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said and her deputy, Ramkarpal Singh, as well as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali.

Anwar said the country must be administered sincerely and urged his cabinet to work closely with civil servants.

He said there had been successes in the last few months since he became prime minister. Anwar said he saw the will to resolve issues from insufficient foreign workers to the deployment of the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team to aid the Turkiye earthquake search-and-rescue mission.

However, Anwar said, there was room for improvement for the sake of the people and to deter

possible acts of misconduct.

He said he had always tried to put himself in the shoes of the people whenever he read studies from the Treasury Department, Bank Negara Malaysia, Khazanah Nasional and the Economic Planning Unit on the poverty rate and the percentage of hardcore poor.

"The people must be stopped from being fooled and impoverished, freed from any sort of oppression, slavery, and the taking of the people's wealth until they are denied their rights.

"I do not want to deny this. Some people say I always bring up the past, but the image, the country's economy and the acts of misconduct cannot be denied. There must be strength and will from all to uphold the dignity of the country.

"Our success is not only determined by political figures, but there must be holistic commitment from civil servants to achieve Malaysia Madani."