

# Jana Wibawa scheme scrapped

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government has cancelled the RM7 billion Jana Wibawa programme in its bid to promote good governance.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said after some of the earlier projects awarded under the programme were re-tendered transparently, the country was expected to save up to RM3 billion.

He said these savings would be redistributed to benefit the people through other rakyat-oriented projects.

"The implementation of government procurement must be transparent and based on good governance. There should be no arbitrary waste of public money and violations of the law using the direct negotiation method," Anwar said.

The Jana Wibawa programme was introduced in November 2020 by the government during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's administration allegedly to speed up project implementation and to boost the country's economy during and

after the Covid-19 pandemic. The programme was also intended to increase the capacity of Bumiputera contractors in the construction industry to be more competitive and resilient.

However, the programme came under the spotlight following the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) probe into it.

Earlier this week, former Bersatu information chief Datuk Wan Saiful Wan Jan and Segambut

Bersatu deputy chief Adam Radian Adam Muhammad were charged with soliciting and accepting bribes amounting to millions of ringgit in connection with the programme.

Charged in relation to the two was businessman Teo Wee Cheng, a director of Pagoh-based SSH Furniture Sdn Bhd.

The 65-year old was charged with soliciting and accepting bribes totalling RM12.8 million to

help two companies obtain contracts under the programme. The two companies were Muar Usaha Bakti Sdn Bhd and TS Dynamic Construction Sdn Bhd. Teo's involvement had raised eyebrows with people questioning why Bumiputera companies that ultimately benefited from the programme allegedly needed Teo's help to secure the contracts.

Some asked why there was a need for a third party to help Bumiputera companies secure contracts while others ques-

tioned if Teo had a role to play in the Jana Wibawa programme. A number of netizens also questioned if it was a coincidence that Teo's company was based in Muhyiddin's parliamentary constituency of Pagoh.

MACC Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki has since said a few more investigation papers would be opened in relation to the Jana Wibawa programme, adding that it was possible that more people would be arrested: He also said MACC was still investigating Muhyiddin in connection with the programme.



Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin



Teo Wee Cheng