

'Can't we do this in the shade?' asks PM as sun takes a toll

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim took pity on his officers who stood under the hot sun as he delivered his speech at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly.

Towards the end of his almost 12-minute speech, Anwar said he had asked Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali if the assembly must be held outdoors in the sun.

"Can't we do this in the shade? I feel guilty when I speak too long because it is hot," said Anwar, drawing laughter from the more than 300 officers, some who were fanning themselves, gathered at

Dataran Perdana, Perdana Putra.

Anwar said he would discuss the matter further with Zuki, joking that the assembly was the latter's "forte" and that he did not want to have problems with him.

He said if there was an opportunity, he would like to exchange ideas and hear from the officers, like he does with ministry secretaries-generals and department directors-general.

"If there are any problems, do not keep it to yourself because we want to ensure the nation is able to move forward quicker.

"Let me, the deputy prime ministers, the chief secretary or the ministers know," said Anwar.