



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mingling with civil servants from federal agencies in Kangar, Perlis, yesterday, PIC BY LUQMAN HAKIM ZUBIR

ANOTHER ROUND

WEIGHING UP EPF WITHDRAWAL CALLS

Anwar says he'll need to strike a balance between contributors' current and future needs

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THE government will have to balance between the pressing needs of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) depositors and their future survival before deciding

on another round of withdrawals.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he was concerned about the small amount of savings among the majority of depositors, which could jeopardise their future.

"If we look at the savings in their EPF accounts, the amount is

very low. I will have to strike a balance between their current and future needs.

"I am very worried about their future, so the government will look for options to help them."

He said this after delivering a special address to 1,200 civil servants from federal agencies in Perlis here yesterday.

Present were Menteri Besar Mohd Shukri Ramli and State Secretary Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad.

Earlier, Anwar was granted an audience with Raja of Perlis Tjau anku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Ja-

malullail at Istana Arau.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, was responding to a memorandum submitted by Pertubuhan Aktivis Rakyat Malaysia (ProRakyat) on Sunday.

The group had asked the government to approve another round of EPF withdrawals of up to RM30,000.

The memorandum was submitted by its president, Khairul Anuar Othman, to Anwar's political secretary, Azman Abidin, in Kuala Lumpur.

Khairul was quoted as saying the withdrawal was needed as a

short-term solution for those who had suffered hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He added that many contributors had bank loans that needed to be settled.

He said that those who had obtained jobs or started small businesses after losing their jobs during the pandemic needed cash injection urgently as applying for loans was not the best solution now

ProRakyat is among several groups urging the government to consider allowing another round of one-off EPF withdrawals.