

## CLAIMS OF NO 'FULL-TIME' FINANCE MINISTER

# Anwar: Weak ringgit due to policy issues, international constraints

**PUTRAJAYA:** Policy issues and international constraints are among factors that contributed to the weakening of the ringgit.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the weak state of the ringgit had nothing to do with whether Malaysia had a "full-time" finance minister.

He said those who made such allegations should have studied the matter.

"Ask the person to read economic and financial reports, not

just reports about (things said by? Pas," he said after the handing over of house keys to recipients of the Madani Dalur Malaysian civil servants housing project.

On Wednesday, Bachok member of parliament Mohd Syahir Che Sulaiman said a "full-time" finance minister was needed to look into the depreciating value of the ringgit and other financial woes.

"While Bank Negara Malaysia has taken necessary steps such as raising the overnight policy rate,

Malaysians are left waiting for a strategy from the prime minister, finance minister or the economy minister," Syahir said.

Anwar, besides being prime minister, is also finance minister.

Syahir's claims went against economic experts' opinion that the weakening of the ringgit was largely due to external factors.

The experts, however, agreed that the volatility of the ringgit could affect investors' sentiment over Malaysia's prospects.