

MANAGING THE NATIONAL DEBT

Anwar: Govt won't borrow money for mega projects

KOTA BARU: The government does not intend to borrow any more money for mega projects, as this will only increase the national debt which is already at RM1.5 trillion.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said initiating more projects would lead to more borrowing, and this was not his aim.

"I really do not agree with the

government borrowing money... as prime minister, it is my responsibility to reduce the debt, not add to it," he said when delivering a special mandate to civil servants in Kelantan, yesterday.

He said it was possible for the government to borrow more money for projects, but those who would end up paying for it were the following generations.

"It is cruel if we managed debt without any responsibility, as it will also burden our children in the future."

Anwar said the government under his leadership would try to reduce deficit this year, and more in the coming years.

"If the deficits in the country are high, it will impact investments."