Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim handing a mock cheque for RM7.76 million to At-Taqwa mosque's imam Aziz Mohamad, in Tumpat, yesterday. With him are his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob (centre). BERNAMA PIC

RM500 MILLION ALLOCATION

Kelantan water projects to be sped up

TUMPAT: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday ordered the Tok Bali water plant project and replacement of water pipes in Bachok be sped up to resolve the state's water woes.

Anwar said an allocation of RM500 million — part of the RM1.7 billion approved by the government for the state — would be used for the purpose.

"I have agreed for an immediate allocation of RM1.7 billion to solve Kelantan's water problem, and have directed the relevant agencies to speed up the two projects to ensure Kelantan people get the clean water supply faster.

"I thank the menteri besar for being willing to discuss this issue with the unity government.

"We discussed flood and water supply problems, and to solve these issues, discussions between the two governments are needed," he said at the At-Taqwa mosque here, yesterday.

Anwar added that this proved the unity government never left out Kelantan as claimed by certain quarters.

"Compared with other states, Kelantan received the highest allocation in the country."

He said the government would continue to carry out other development projects in Kelantan, and announced a RM7.76 million allocation for the upgrading work of At-Taqwa mosque.

"My presence here is to express my admiration for Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob. He is like my family, and even though we disagree on politics, his generosity is admirable, and I cannot compare to his grandeur.

"As such, when he requested the allocation. I felt compelled to assist, and after consulting with my officers and learning that millions of ringgit have been spent on the mosque, which is currently 30 per cent complete, the government decided to provide RM7.76 million for this project."

Anwar said the allocation was the biggest he had made since becoming the prime minister.

"What I've given to Tumpat is also bigger than what I've given to my Tambun constituency."

Present at the function were Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, his deputy Datuk Mohd Amar Nik Abdullah and the mosque's imam Aziz Mohamad.

Ahmad praised the prime minister for the allocation, stating that the mosque, which can seat 1,600 people, would assist the community.

The RM13 million mosque began its construction last year and is expected to complete in March next year.

After the function, Anwar, who was on a working visit to Kelantan yesterday, delivered his mandate to the state civil servants at Balai Islam complex.

Later, the prime minister, accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, proceeded to Kampung Jaya to deliver the house keys to participants of Rumah Mesra Rakyat.

From there, Anwar headed to Bachok to meet students of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan.