

Three initiatives to help nation face global challenges: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is launching several strong initiatives and plans to help the nation face global challenges, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said these would include the National Industrial Plan to be launched in August, the 12th Malaysia Plan Mid-Term Review at the end of September and the second Madani Budget in October.

He said these measures are required to deal with the challenges facing the world, which include power struggle and war, global economic slowdown, as well as the climate and environmental crisis.

"This big framework that will be launched will serve as a platform for good, transparent and responsible governance," Anwar said in his congratulatory speech at the investiture ceremony in conjunction with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's birthday celebration yesterday.

He added that besides economic recovery efforts, the unity government is also focusing on addressing the cost of living issue, increase in prices of goods and food security, which have become a worldwide problem.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said several approaches such as the Rahmah Umbrella Concept, entrepreneurship programmes, and Aidilfitri Sales Carnival were carried out as part of the efforts to help the people.

He said Malaysia would also continue to play a more active role in voicing its stance and in preserving the country's interests at international forums, particularly regarding issues on the country's sovereignty, humanitarianism, security and disaster management.

"Your Majesty's contribution in raising the country's interests in the diplomatic and investment fields is greatly appreciated," Anwar said.

He said Malaysia's gross domestic product grew 5.6%, involving a total investment of RM71.4 billion, during the first quarter of this year, and attributed this to the wise planning by the Cabinet, civil servants and private sector.

He said the Malaysia Madani Budget 2023 was unanimously passed at the first meeting of the second session of the 15th Parliament last year.

"Hence our determination to implement the three pillars and 12 main thrusts of the Madani Budget, especially in food security, the digital economy, the role of small and medium enterprises and eliminating hardcore poor."

Al-Sultan Abdullah said the government, in line with the concept of Developing Malaysia Madani, is committed to working hard to ensure the country's growth, while upholding justice and noble human values.

He was elected King by the Malay Rulers at the 251st Meeting of the Conference of Rulers on Jan 24, 2019. - Bernama