

'GOVT WILL HEAR ALL VIEWS ON BUDGET'

Feedback, even from opposition, will be welcomed so long as it benefits the people, says PM

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THE government will not dismiss feedback from anyone who can make the 2023 Budget better, even if the proposals come from the opposition.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government was open to views from all so that appropriate changes could be made to benefit the people.

"The 2023 Budget may not be perfect. So, it is better that we listen (to everyone) and even the opposition.

"If there are reasonable calls (for changes), we can accept and amend (the budget). If not this year, it could be next year," said Anwar, who is also the finance minister, during the Finance Ministry's monthly assembly.

Present were deputy finance minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan and Treasury secretary-general Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican.



A woman looking at television sets in a shop showing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tabling the 2023 Budget recently. In the Finance Ministry's monthly assembly yesterday, Anwar said good governance is a serious matter for the country. FILE PIC

He also asked the ministry as well as the Treasury to make decisions that would bring a positive impact on society from the aspects of economy, culture, universal justice, race, religion

and nation.

On Feb 24, Anwar tabled a revised 2023 Budget of RM388.1 billion, the country's biggest thus far. Of that amount, RM289.1 billion was allocated for operating

expenditure, RM99 billion for development and RM2 billion for contingency savings.

Anwar said the Finance Ministry should be an institution that was known for its strict princi-

ples of good governance, much like the Inland Revenue Board.

He said the ministry should send a clear message that it would not tolerate any nonsense, particularly attempts by certain quarters to enrich themselves.

"The ministry must bank on strict good governance and not allow any effort to enrich oneself by cheating and taking advantage of contracts because this has happened a lot before.

"I want the ministry to discharge its duties sternly in terms of procurements and distribution of allocations, as well as having a more transparent financial (management) principle.

"This should be a huge mission to fight power abuse and misappropriation.

"I want to stress that this (good governance principle) is a serious matter for the country. If we do not do it well, we will fail."

Anwar said it was vital for the ministry to bring the message of change, which should not only be a slogan.

This, the prime minister said, should also not just be based on the Malaysia Madani concept, but also on the ministry officers' will to transform the country into a great nation.

He also expressed hope that the ministry would emerge as one that was known for its ingenuity in its services and commitment to the nation and people.