

PM WANTS MORE GLC ROLES FOR WOMEN

Companies should prioritise hiring, promoting capable female executives, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants women to play a greater role in government-linked companies (GLCs) and government-linked investment companies (GLICs).

In his speech at the 2023 International Women's Day celebration here yesterday, Anwar wanted GLCs and GLICs to prioritise appointing and promoting qualified women.

Anwar said although such a change would be gradual, he hoped to see significant progress in the roles played by women in GLCs and GLICs.

"There are still avenues for improvement (to promote a greater role for women in companies). Giving women recognition is just not enough.

"There are still cases of sexual harassment against women at the workplace. Furthermore, there are many women in the workforce who feel they are not receiving the recognition that they deserve for their wisdom, capability and hard work.

"That is why we need to explore this new mindset," said Anwar in his speech at the event organised by the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry.

Present were Anwar's wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri and Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek.

Anwar cited a report by the Securities Commission, which found that women held 29 per cent of board positions in the private sector as of Dec 31 last year.

He said women made up 38 per cent of grade C and above positions in the civil service.

Anwar said the Malaysia Madani concept espoused by his government was inspired by the contributions of women in the country.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presenting an Anugerah Kasih Wanita at the International Women's Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. **MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI**

"(Malaysia) Madani could never be created without the strength of a family foundation.

"And a strong family lies in the strength of a woman. If anyone asks me on how to ensure the success of Malaysia Madani... it is right from the household under the guidance of a person whom we call mother," he said.

Anwar also paid tribute to Dr Wan Azizah for her contributions and sacrifices, especially in raising their children.

"I have to admit this... between myself and (Dr Wan) Azizah, she is better at raising our children."

Anwar later announced an allocation of RM1 million to set up the Tabung KASIH Rahmah, aimed at helping vulnerable women.

The fund, said Anwar, would be under Nancy's ministry.

"The fund is to help women in vulnerable situations, such as domestic abuse victims and those neglected by their spouses, before they are assisted by the Welfare Department or tithe centres," he said.

The prime minister also launched the i-Sayang facility, a collaboration between the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry. The facility allows husbands to voluntarily transfer two per cent of their EPF monthly contributions to their wives' account.

EPF Chief Executive Officer Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said: "The i-Sayang facility is part of EPF's ongoing efforts to further expand the social protection net to family institutions and encourage more Malaysians, who

are not covered by any formal social protection scheme, to save for their retirement future."

About 2.4 million housewives in the country are not in any employment or are outside the labour force, hence are not covered by any social protection, leaving them more vulnerable to adversity or financial shocks.

At another event earlier, the prime minister reiterated that the government would uphold the highest ethical standards and abuse of power would not be tolerated in his administration.

In his keynote address at the Invest Malaysia 2023, Anwar said any breach of ethics would be severely dealt with.

"I have said this many times, and I will repeat it here: This government adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards misconduct and corruption.

"Good corporate governance must remain the basis on which businesses, companies and shareholders operate. It is also necessary to ensure that good governance provides robust safeguards for investor protection and the stability of the financial and capital markets," he said.

Anwar said the measures in the budget he tabled would eradicate hardcore poverty and minimise the cost of living.

"The Inisiatif Pendapatan Rakyat or the People's Income Initiative is a powerful platform to correct this societal imbalance.

"It works through providing opportunities for the poor to increase their income potential in farming as well as in food and general maintenance service providers," he added.