

Madani concept must emphasise community balance, says PM

IPOH: The implementation of the Malaysia Madani concept must emphasise community balance so that the drive for growth is felt by all groups, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the hallmarks of development should not only be in the form of famous and tall buildings, but also balance between the elite and the people.

“(Balance) between the *mahligai* (mansions) and the people’s houses, between luxury restaurants and the people’s stalls, which are beautiful and clean. There should also be greenery

and parks for the people.”

He said this when officiating at the National Landscape Day Celebration 2023 at Taman D.R. Seenivasagam here yesterday.

Anwar said this should start with the local authority in each state to ensure that everyone was protected.

“In Kuala Lumpur, there are dozens of (development) projects like this... Twin Towers, the Kuala Lumpur Tower. But the stalls are dilapidated, like in the 1950s.

“I don’t want Malaysia to have the tallest building, the longest

bridge, the biggest building, when the people suffer.”

Anwar also reminded all mayors and local council chairmen to reexamine their development plans so that the mission of balanced development could be achieved.

He also said the government would ensure that the concept of development in the country was improved, with the rights and interests of the people always protected.

“No one will feel free to take away the rights of the people, and feel that (they) can get away with

it. I will make sure this does not happen.

“Give the government the opportunity to clean the country from robbers and focus on the interests of the people,” he said.

Anwar also addressed the Perak government’s reluctance to negotiate with Penang on supplying the latter with water.

He said the issue would be studied in detail.

He said any decision by Perak, including wanting to prioritise its needs first before supplying water to Penang, was a policy that needed to be respected.

“If Perak wants to prioritise the needs of the state... there is nothing wrong with that policy.

“We will see if there really is a large surplus, the projection, as well as the needs in five, 10 years. All of that will be studied scientifically. Only then will we make a decision.”

On Dec 1, last year, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad said the state would not supply water to Penang even though the state government comprised Barisan Nasional and Pakatan Harapan representatives.