

# PM: Focus on balanced urban development

**KUALA LUMPUR:** All local authorities across the country have been asked to pay attention to and address the issues relating to urban or town planning to ensure a balanced development that meets the demand of city dwellers.

According to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the current situation seems to be quite critical because prior urban planning has been found to have flaws as focused solely on development.

"The situation has become out of control. For example, the gap is so obvious as major towns are also congested with urban poor areas or slums. That shows our planning has weaknesses.

"We have built beautiful buildings, had mega projects because they were needed to develop the country, but we forgot that people also need proper housing.

"And we want to build houses for them but we found the costs of

## Anwar wants local authorities to address weaknesses in town planning to be in line with Malaysia Madani

projects and land have gone up," he said when officiating the Kuala Lumpur Garden Festival at Titiwangsa Lake Gardens here yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, added that major town planning is important in line with the concept of Malaysia Madani, reported Bernama.

He reminded local authorities to be responsible in preparing adequate facilities and beautifying hawker areas for all Malaysians.

"We want five-star restaurants, but we must also remember that hawker stalls are also important as the majority of the people cannot afford to dine at five-star restaurants. It is the responsibility of

those with power to ensure that the people too can enjoy the comfort of proper and beautiful facilities."

The Kuala Lumpur Gardens Festival from March 4 to 12, with the theme "Malaysian Art and Flora Garden," is a rebranding of the Kuala Lumpur Orchid and Bonsai Show programme, which has been organised by Kuala Lumpur City Hall since 2012.

Also present were Chief Secretary to the government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Datuk Johari Abdul, Local Government Development Minister Nga Kor Ming and City Mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah. Anwar's wife, who is also Bandar Tun Razak MP, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan

Ismail, also attended the event

Meanwhile, Anwar said he did not interfere in the decisions made by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) involving former prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was arrested and released on bail yesterday.

He said the decision to call the Perikatan Nasional chairman to have his statement recorded was solely within the commission's jurisdiction, adding that all relevant agencies, including the Attorney-General's Chambers, were ordered to look into cases related to corruption.

"(The agencies were told to) look into the cases and the charges. So far, only Muhyiddin has been called, but to say that there is a political motive behind this and that other big cases will be off the hook is not right.

"That is why I said we have to look whether there is a case. That is MACC's job, and until now, I do not know where the case is going."