

RM5m yearly funding boost for youth council

Allocation to help young people foster unity and strengthen Malaysia Madani concept

PORT DICKSON: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced a RM5 million annual allocation for the Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) to empower young people.

He said the move is in recognition of the council's hard work, led by its president Mohd Izzat Afifi Abdul Hamid, and its dedication in supporting the Malaysia Madani concept.

"MYC is special because its affiliates, representing various associations, races and religions, can bring youth together in the spirit of unity. It is important in

saving our country and building new strength," he said during the National Youth Day celebration at the Port Dickson District and Land Office field here yesterday.

Also present were Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun and Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh.

Anwar also requested the council to provide a detailed report on its plan to increase the membership of youth in associations, Bernama reported.

"Secondly, how to get more women participation at all levels, including MYC leadership, and

thirdly, how to intensify programmes related to the economy, training, welfare and youth awareness in fulfilling their responsibilities in the country."

In the meantime, Anwar said youth must have confidence, idealism and principles, in addition to being respectful to one another and saying no to corruption.

"Today's youth must realise that they are the ones who will determine their future, provided that they have the commitment, willingness to learn, reject corruption and tyranny, and uphold people's dignity."

In conjunction with the National Youth Day celebration themed "Ini Masa Kita" (This is Our Time), he reminded youths against using religion and race to destroy the nation.

Anwar, who once led MYC in the 1970s, said he is determined to fight corruption due to the spirit and principles of the previous members.

The prime minister also launched the Madani Youth Development Model 2030, which complements the Malaysian Youth Policy, during the event yesterday.

The model was developed based on the aspirations of youth affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, emphasising four thrusts, 11 objectives, 14 strategies and 39 initiatives. It aims to produce dynamic, competent, competitive and resilient youths to face current and future challenges.

Meanwhile, Anwar proposed that government-linked companies like Khazanah Nasional Bhd and Petronas be involved in youth training programmes focusing on leadership.

He said he will bring the proposal related to training programmes at youth training institutes, under the Youth and Sports Ministry, to the Cabinet for approval soon.

"Currendy, we have TVET programmes run by Petronas and private companies. But I agree with the minister's view that leadership is still critical," he added.