

# Anwar: No fresh allocations for unity govt's promotional drive

THERE were no fresh allocations for the unity government's publicity and promotional drive, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He added that his administration is using the remaining funds from the contract signed by his predecessor.

The Prime Minister said between 2020 and 2022, some RM700mil were spent on advertising, promotions and publicity to publicise the government's achievements.

"This means that close to RM500mil was spent by Pagoh (Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin) and the balance was spent by Bera (Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob). But Bera did not spend that much and there was a balance in the funds," he said during the Prime

Minister's Question Time.

Anwar said he did not have any allocations for this year, but was using the balance of the contract during the Ismail Sabri's administration.

He added that he has instructed the Finance Ministry to allocate not more than RM100mil in 2024 for publicity and promotional activities.

"I don't think the government should be burdened with additional advertisements and publicity, in addition to programmes where we go to the ground to meet the people and disseminate information through the mass media especially social media," he said.

He was responding to P. Prabakaran (PH-Batu) on the total

amount that the government had spent on promotions and publicity through all media platforms.

He said information must be disseminated to the people, primarily on government measures such as the Budget, Madam economic framework among others.

In addition to the government programmes, ministers, deputy ministers and MPs are also encouraged to go down to the ground, he said.

"I do not think this is a problem as long as we have a clear programme and continue to meet the people," he said.

"But to spend a lot (on publicity and promotion), I think it is not in line with the efficient management and governance that we

have been talking about all along," he said.

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah (PN-Indera Mahkota) asked if former prime minister Muhyiddin had spent more due to the Covid-19 situation during his administration.

While Anwar did not provide the breakdown on the expenditure, he said some of these promotional activities directly involved the Prime Minister's Office.

"This include media buys, advertisements or paying certain media houses to promote the prime minister besides the government. There were also publicity via billboards and others forms.

"A lot of these also promoted the prime minister along the government's programmes during

Covid-19," he said.

Datuk Rosol Wahid (PN-Hulu Terengganu) asked on how much was spent by Anwar's government on promotions of Malaysia Madani, adding that he had seen Anwar's photographs on billboards.

Anwar replied that former prime minister Ismail Sabri's photograph was replaced with his own photograph based on a contract for promotions signed in 2022.

He added that he did not sign a new contract.

"There was no new allocation for 2023 but it was simply a continuation of the agreement signed during Bera's administration, for which the allocation was not fully spent," he said.