

# PM has shown commitment to MA63, say pundits

**KOTA KINABALU:** A year in office has seen various initiatives taken by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for Sabah, especially in fulfilling the state's demands in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) to it does not lag behind in development, socioeconomic well-being and various crucial sectors, say several analysts and academicians.

They believe that Anwar is genuinely committed to ensuring the full implementation of the Malaysia formation agreement signed in 1963, subsequently

making a significant impact on the lives of Sabahans.

Political analyst Musli Oli said Anwar's commitment is evident, especially when he, along with Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, successfully concluded various matters through the MA63 Implementation Action Council, including the transfer of regulatory power over Sabah's gas supply to the state.

He said it proves that the Prime Minister truly understands the concept and principles of the federal system and its importance for the prosperity of the country,

much like the country's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj.

"Hence, the (MA63) issue now is not at the decision-making level; it's not a policy issue because Anwar understands this. The problem now lies in the implementation.

"Politicians may understand the status and rights of Sarawak and Sabah, but some civil servants may not understand or pretend not to understand.

"However, as long as MA63 is not fully implemented, there will continue to be a sense of dissatis-

faction among the people in Sabah and Sarawak which could affect relationships within the federal system itself," he told Bernama.

Musli said that in his one year as Prime Minister, Anwar has also taken measures to stabilise the country's economy, and he deserves praise for certain "difficult" decisions he made, such as not taking a salary as Prime Minister or Finance Minister.

The ongoing targeted subsidies implemented by the government are also effective in ensuring that only the truly deserving groups

receive them, which is crucial in assisting the people of Sabah, he said.

"It's just that the implementation method needs to be clear. It should not be abrupt. The people need to understand the reasons first, and there must be an adequate supply of subsidised goods for the implementation (of targeted subsidies).

"Right now, sadly, it is easier to find elephant footprints than to find sugar and cooking oil in packets," he said.