

# 'WORLD BANK'S PERSPECTIVE LIMITED'

Its understanding of religious or local issues not in line with local economic experts, says Anwar

## KUALA LUMPUR

**C**OUNTRIES should not blindly duplicate the World Bank's framework in implementing local policy, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said: "While we are benefiting from the World Bank's perspective, we acknowledge that there are limitations as their understanding of religious or local issues is not in line with local economic experts.

"So while we take into account the perspectives of international experts, we should not simply copy and paste it to make it a national agenda, as what was done in the 2030 Shared Prosperity Vision (SPV2030) by the previous administration.

"(And) this is why the current government made a shift as the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

values in the vision don't focus on local sustainability issues."

Anwar said this in response to Suhaizan Kayat (Pakatan Harapan-Pulau), who had asked about the difference between the World Bank's vision and the Madani economy framework.

Anwar added that the World Bank's perspective also did not address issues the country was

facing, such as deficit and debt inherited from the previous government.

"So the administration must consider these problems, and these issues cannot be solved (if we use the international perspective).

"This is also why I stress the importance of planning, particularly for the next generation.

"Do not just be satisfied with using flashy Western references.

"Have the talent to provide definitions and values rooted in our country's religion and morals," he added.

In February, the government said it would replace SPV2030, introduced by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2018, with the Malaysia Madani economy framework.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali said the change was because the Malaysia Madani concept had become a collective and holistic guide to steer more humane administrative policies.

The government launched the framework in July, dubbed the "Madani Economy: Empowering the People", to uphold and elevate the status and position of the country.

On a separate issue, Anwar took opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin to task, saying the latter should watch his full CNN interview before commenting about it.

This, he said, was because certain quarters had edited his interview with anchor Christiane Amanpour, giving the impres-

sion that he had evaded her questions on issues, including the Malaysian economic policy.

"We have shown the full interview on CNN International and CNN United States, which have given full coverage of the answers.

"However, there are saboteurs who edited the interview, showing incomplete answers.

"So I suggest the honourable MP should not only watch the cut-and-paste version but also the full interview."

Anwar, who is finance minister, said this after Hamzah (PN-Larut) had questioned his inability to provide a complete answer on the Madani economy framework.

Hamzah had said Anwar's unsatisfactory answer during the interview had led him to question the prime minister in the Dewan Rakyat.

Anwar previously had an interview with the international media, which saw him talking about a host of issues, including the challenges faced by his administration.

In the Sept 22 CNN interview, he explained the government's concept of Malaysia Madani, which encompassed good governance and social justice.