

Health, Education ministries to get major allocations

IPOH: The Health and Education Ministries will continue to get large allocations under the Madani Budget 2024 to be tabled on Oct 13, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who will be presenting the second Madani Budget as finance minister, said among the matters that would be given focus in the Health Ministry's budget are the building of clinics and solving the congestion problem at government hospitals.

"In the Madani Budget, health and education issues will continue to be given emphasis. Our main focus is healthcare facilities, including hospitals.

"Some claim that since Anwar became the prime minister, most hospitals have become congested. This problem

> Building clinics, solving congestion problem at govt hospitals to be primary focus in boosting healthcare, says Anwar

has long existed, so we will manage it properly," he said when launching the national Madani Medical Scheme and Madani Afiat Programme 2023 yesterday.

Anwar said subsidy rationalisation is necessary, including for treatment charges at government hospitals, to ensure that government subsidies benefit groups that truly need help.

"We have to study it. If we want to continue with subsidies, there is no need to give to the 10% (high-income group). For

example, hospital charges are low, even free in some cases, but we give to all. Is it wrong to impose higher payments on the richest group?"

On the Madani Medical Scheme, he said it is an important initiative under the Malaysia Madani Policy to provide equitable access to quality health service for the B40 group.

Anwar also conveyed his greetings to the local pharmaceutical fraternity in conjunction with World Pharmacists Day, which was celebrated on Sept 25.

He praised Perak for implementing various initiatives to improve the dissemination of health information to the people, including the state-level Malaysia Health Month programme.

Meanwhile, the Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry has expressed hope that it would receive a higher budget allocation for next year to continue supporting entrepreneurs nationwide.

Its minister Datuk Ewon Benedick said entrepreneurs across the country can definitely expect good news under the Madani Budget 2024.

"We have proposed a larger amount for Budget 2024 compared with RM732 million this year after considering inputs from various stakeholders nationwide.

"We have collected, summarised and submitted (the data) to the Finance Ministry. I am very confident that we will get a better amount than what was approved," he said after officiating the National Institute of Entrepreneurship branch yesterday, Bernama reported.

Ewon added that the ministry recently allocated RM10 million in special grants for Bumiputera entrepreneurs in Sabah and Sarawak under the Bumiputera Enterprise Enhancement Programme Plus.

Earlier, in his speech, Ewon said the opening of the National Institute of Entrepreneurship campus in Sarawak would provide entrepreneurs with better access to programmes as it is equipped with training rooms that can accommodate 30 participants at a time.

"The complete facilities provided play an essential role in creating a conducive environment for learning and entrepreneurial development and are cost-effective for conducting training and mentoring programmes.

"Another advantage of the campus is its strategic location in the city, making it easily accessible to all entrepreneurs and programme participants from surrounding areas."



Anwar, flanked by Health Minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, at the event in Ipoh yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC