



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says economic reforms led by the Madani government are aimed at improving the nation's finances and ensuring that the country's wealth is equitably shared. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

RM100 TO RM650

# RAHMAH CASH AID INCREASED TO RM1.5B

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8.4 million people to start receiving payments from tomorrow, says Anwar

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**T**HE government has increased the allocation for phase two of the Rahmah cash aid (STR) by 20 per cent to RM1.5 billion, compared with RM1.26 billion last year.

From tomorrow, 8.4 million people will receive RM100 to RM650.

Households earning less than RM1,500 will receive RM150 to RM650, while households earning between RM2,500 and RM5,000 would receive RM100 to RM300.

Senior citizens without partners will receive RM150 while single individuals will receive RM100.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also finance minister, said economic reforms led by the Madani government were not only aimed at improving the nation's finances, but also aimed to ensure that the coun-

try's wealth was equitably shared.

"God willing, the government will increase cash assistance to people in line with improvements in the nation's fiscal position, including the implementation of targeted subsidies for those who need them."

Anwar, at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday, rebutted claims by the opposition that the government was ignoring issues faced by the people, including cost of living.

He said the prices of necessities, such as chicken, eggs and cooking oil, were lower and more stable compared with the prices during the previous government's administration.

"Don't forget that in 2021 and 2022, the price of chicken was RM13 (per kg). Now it is much lower, at RM9 to RM9.50 per kg.

"The opposition thinks we forget. When they were in charge, the price of 5kg of cooking oil was RM45 to RM50.

"Now it is around RM27. For chicken eggs, to an extent, there were no eggs. Now, *Alhamdulillah*, (supply) is stable."

He said although there were local rice supply issues, the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry's work had led to a decrease of RM2 to RM3 in the price of imported rice.

He said apart from improving the STR initiative, the allocation

for the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) initiative for the poor and hardcore poor — with the first phase of distribution in January — had also increased five-fold.

He said last year, the allocation was RM130 million, but this year, it was RM700 million.

The number of Sara recipients had also increased to 700,000 this year, compared with 210,000 in 2023, he added.

Anwar said some early transformative steps by the government had boosted investments and raised Malaysia's profile on the global stage.

This, he said, included the enactment of the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023, which compels the government to be more disciplined in economic and fiscal management.

He also emphasised enforcement to curb government leakages and called on all parties to think of the best method to ensure aid and subsidies were channelled to target groups, such as that being done through the re-targeting of electricity subsidies.

Meanwhile, he said the government had agreed to grant a RM500 Hari Raya Aidilfitri aid to Grade 56 civil servants and below.

He said the aid would benefit contract appointments, as well as government retirees, including pensionable and non-pensionable veterans.