

# No Raya celebration this year at Seri Perdana, says PM

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has no plans to hold an Aidilfitri celebration at his official residence at Seri Perdana this year but will attend the celebrations organised by ministries in the states.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the government is being frugal and wants other government agencies to emulate it.

He called on all agencies and ministries, especially the Finance Ministry, not to boast about holding Aidilfitri celebrations.

"Don't compete whose (celebration) is more impressive. The money spent is not even yours," he said at the Finance Ministry's assembly here yesterday.

Anwar said the government's decision to provide the Aidilfitri Special Financial Assistance to civil servants was made after taking into account the cost of living, which had increased slightly.

"On Sunday night, I was thinking about the assistance and could not sleep. It's not much, but at least it

will ease the (civil servants) burden and make them more motivated to work. (I) Hope the money is spent carefully and prudently."

Anwar said he realised that the RM2,000 in Early Incentive Payment given to civil servants last month could not cover their needs.

"I have been to Sarawak, Pahang, Perak and Perlis. There are civil servants at the lower level complaining about the increase in the cost of living."

On Monday, Anwar announced

an Aidilfitri aid of RM500 to civil servants in Grade 56 and below and RM250 each to all government retirees, which will be paid on Friday.

Anwar urged all government agencies, statutory bodies and government-related companies to give similar financial assistance to their employees.

"Consider the hundreds of thousands of workers. Reward them to lighten their burden to celebrate Aidilfitri." – Bernama