



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with outgoing Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. Looking on are (from second left) Anwar's deputies Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa and Public Service Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

GREAT PERFORMANCE

'CIVIL SERVICE ENSURES NATION'S SUCCESS'

Anwar praises retiring chief secretary to govt for his dedication

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday acknowledged the role of civil servants in boosting the performance and ensuring the success of the country.

He said the government was grateful the country's economic progress and growth were recognised, including the ringgit being at its strongest in 14 years and the best performing in Asia.

"This success is due to more stable politics, as well as clearer policies and frameworks.

"But one very important element to highlight is that we have a tradition of civil servants working hard to improve performance and ensure success.

"It may not be widely known, but that is the reality," he said in his speech at the Prime Minister's Department's monthly assembly here.

Present were his deputies Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah

Yusof, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

Anwar said when discussing the country's successes, there must be humility so that there is room to improve efficiency and address weaknesses to achieve more.

On Sunday, Anwar said the ringgit was set for its best run in 14 years because of the collective effort of Malaysians.

Yesterday, he paid tribute to outgoing Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, who is retiring on Aug 10.

When asked whether there was a candidate to replace Zuki, Anwar said: "No. We will announce it very soon."

Yesterday's assembly was the last for Zuki, who began his contract on Aug 11, 2022.

Anwar said: "I am grateful that since becoming prime minister, in addition to having good colleagues in the administration, I have been accompanied by a key pillar of the civil service."

He said since his first day in office in November 2022, Zuki had provided advice, suggestions and insight for the betterment of the civil service and the country.

"I appreciate and am indebted to him. He has served previous prime ministers and he performs

his duties professionally, never complaining.

"I consider myself fortunate. We see criticism in the media about delays, but many fail to recognise the civil servants who dedicate themselves to the nation and the people.

"In the government, we feel at ease when we see civil servants being committed and giving their all, both time and energy.

"Those close to me know how hard I work.

"But the chief secretary to the government has never shown any signs of struggling with the pressure and burden I place on him."

Zuki began serving as chief secretary to the government on Dec 31, 2019.

He has served under Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

Zuki joined the public service in December 1992 as an assistant secretary at the Finance Ministry.

On Aug 17, 2015, he was made director-general of the Legal Affairs Division under the Prime Minister's Department.

He became Sarawak's secretary for federal affairs on Aug 13, 2016, then senior deputy secretary-general at the Prime Minister's Department on Aug 1, 2017.

Before he became chief secretary to the government, he was Defence Ministry secretary-general, beginning April 18, 2019.