

WORK HARD, ANWAR TELLS CIVIL SERVANTS

PM asks 2 top govt officials to take action if there is weakness in public service delivery

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has asked Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Public Service Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz to take action if there are negligence and weaknesses in the public service system, Bernama reports.

The prime minister yesterday said the move was necessary to ensure that the good name of public servants is defended, in addition to improving its performance in line with the public service reform and salary adjustment announced on Friday.

"In yesterday's (Friday's) meeting, when we announced the salary adjustment for public servants, there was a promise and pledge that starting this Monday, every office will ensure that public servants come in on time and work hard to improve their performance.

"I hope that if people notice weaknesses in any district office, federal office or agency, they must immediately report it because we have given them a reward (a salary increase).

"If there is negligence, I have asked the chief secretary to the government and Public Service Department director-general to take action."

He said this at the closing of the Southern Zone Madani Rakyat programme at Dataran Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Anwar said if the services provided by government agencies were below par, people had a right to evaluate them.

"Whether it's at the Road Transport Department, Immigration, Customs or land offices, people should evaluate the service they receive.

"If it remains the same as before, people will question why salaries have been raised but the



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (seated, centre) meeting visitors at the dosing of the Southern Zone Madani Rakyat programme at Dataran Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in Johor Baru yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

quality of service hasn't improved."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, attributed the country's positive economic performance in the second quarter of the year to the unity government's initiatives under the Madani economic framework.

"Some critics continue to spread negativity, alleging that the unity government is not doing enough.

"But if the government had done nothing, how could we have achieved a growth rate of 5.9 per cent this quarter?"

The economic growth, he said, was the result of coordinated efforts in the public and private sectors, as well as contributions from citizens, farmers, smallholders and fishermen.

"These efforts bolstered investor confidence, which led to the ringgit becoming one of the strongest-performing currencies in the region."

Malaysia's economy grew by 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, surpassing a projection of 5.8 per cent, which was the highest rate since the fourth quarter of 2022.

On July 19, Statistics Department chief Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin attributed the growth to strong household spending, a robust labour market and supportive government policies.

At the event, Anwar expressed disappointment about the backlash from some parties against the government's move to bring

injured Palestinians from Gaza to receive medical treatment in Malaysia.

He was aware that some criticised the noble effort when it was just a small act of compassion and kindness to Palestinians, who had been suffering and enduring Israel's genocidal acts in Gaza.

What is worse, Anwar said, some even asked him to go and become the prime minister of Palestine.

"Israel shoots, bombs, destroys houses, kills babies and women.

"Many Palestinians were injured, men were jailed, women were raped, and when we brought those injured here (for medical treatment), some people started to criticise me, saying I shouldn't be the prime minister of Malaysia, telling me to go be the prime minister of Palestine if I wanted to help," Anwar was quoted as saying by Bernama.

He added that this was not the first time the government had helped people from conflict-stricken countries.

"There are many others who came before them (the Palestinians), hundreds of thousands of Rohingya and Achenese refugees had also come here... we provided protection to them until the tension in their countries eased."

He said he found it absurd when some civil servants fell for the criticisms, rather than being proud and lauding the government and the Royal Malaysian Air Force for the effort.