



Anwar being greeted by the people after officiating at the Sabah Keadilan Convention held in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

PM clarifies RM16 bil allocation for Sabah

> Amount total allocated to state this year, covers various expenditures including for schools, education, border security and overall state development'

KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has clarified that the RM16 billion he announced for Sabah during the Kaamatan Festival on May 31 is the total allocation for the state this year, and not just for development projects.

He said the amount covers various expenditures, including for schools, education, border security and overall state development

Anwar dismissed allegations that he had been deceptive about the allocation, urging all parties, particularly leaders he considers friends, to seek accurate information or ask him directly before making public statements.

"It is not just RM6.6 billion (allocations for Sabah as alleged), as the RM6.6 billion is solely for development So, who pays the teachers (salaries), repairs the roads and maintains

border security. Those are all included in the RM16 billion. Some even suggested that adding (the digit 1) in front makes it RM16 billion. That is incorrect

"If you want to be a friend, act like one. There must be decorum when it comes to friendship. You don't need to thank us, just show a little appreciation. If (the allocation) is not sufficient, we can negotiate, and ask for more in a friendly manner," he said at the Sabah Keadilan Convention held here yesterday.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, who is also Gabungan Rakyat Sabah chairman, Sabah Pakatan Harapan chairman Datuk Christina Liew and Sabah Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin.

Also present were United Progressive

Kinabalu Organisation president Datuk Ewon Benedick Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup and Sabah PKR chairman Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.

On May 31, during his speech at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Kaamatan Festival in Penampang near here, Anwar said since becoming prime minister, he has continuously worked to increase the allocation for Sabah to assist its people, raising it from RM12.9 billion in 2022 to RM16 billion this year.

He said last year, the federal government allocated RM13.9 billion to the state, demonstrating its commitment through close cooperation with Hajiji, the state government and other unity government partners.

"I sympathise especially with the overcrowding in schools, the lack of business opportunities for the people and unemployment among young people.

"We are fighting from the ground up, not from an ivory tower, reaching out to every corner to solve these issues. Every time I check social media, I see news of young people climbing trees to get internet connectivity," he said. - Bernama