



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says there is room for improvement in the government, NSTP PIC
BY ASWADI ALIAS

KEY PRIORITIES

'REFORMS, ANTI-GRAFT DRIVE WILL CONTINUE'

Aim for 2025 is to ensure that governance issues are addressed, says PM

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AS he enters his third year in power, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the fight against corruption and the pursuit of reforms will continue to be key priorities of the government.

At a press conference yesterday, Anwar spoke at length about the importance of ensuring good governance and stamping out corruption.

He reassured the public that the government was pursuing reforms even though they would take time.

Anwar began by saying that good governance is crucial for addressing systemic issues when asked about the Madani government's priorities next year.

"The aim for 2025 is to ensure that governance issues are ad-

ressed because we have been in decline for so long.

"Corruption and misappropriation are regarded as normal practices, and this is not only in the government but also in the mindset of the people.

He said some saw corruption as a "small issue" and believed that acquiring extraordinary wealth while in office was acceptable.

"I cannot tolerate this, and it must be corrected.

"That is why I emphasise good governance because this is the root cause."

He said no one in positions of power, be it ministers, secretaries-general, or department heads, who have inexplicable wealth, is immune to action by the authorities.

Without naming anyone, he took a jab at those who plundered the nation's wealth but carried on with life, preaching as if nothing had happened.

"They talk about saving Malays and saving Islam.

"If you want to save Malays, Islam and the nation, it must be through proper management of the country."

He said the government was committed to its reform agenda.

One reform the government is looking at is the separation of powers between the attorney-general (A-G) and the public

prosecutor (PP).

He said the cabinet has agreed to the proposed division of functions and that a minister has been assigned to lead a task force to oversee the matter.

A draft paper on the proposed reform is expected to be ready by the middle of next year.

For years, civil societies and academicians have called for a separation of the A-G and PP's roles, saying it would prevent conflicts of interest and boost public trust and confidence in administrative and legal institutions.

Reflecting on the past year, Anwar said there was room for improvement in the government.

"Am I satisfied with the performance of the ministers?"

"Some ministers are excellent, some are average, and I would say the same for myself as prime minister.

"But I am satisfied with one thing.

"Although corruption issues have arisen, what is important over the past two years is that I have not allowed the old practice of direct negotiations. I stopped all of that.

"The key point is that in the past two years, there hasn't been a single case of the prime minister taking funds for personal benefit."