

'GOVT'S FOCUS IS ON BOOSTING ECONOMY'

Anwar conveyed this directive at first cabinet meeting of the year, says Fahmi

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THE unity government is focusing on economic aspects this year to stimulate growth.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim conveyed this directive at the first cabinet meeting of the year, while also highlighting the goal of boosting foreign and domestic investments.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, who is the government spokesman, said Anwar shared views about the need for an alignment in the functions of government-linked investment companies in 2024.

"For 2024, the government's focus is on the economic aspect, and what is seen as a priority is encouraging domestic and foreign investors to invest in Malaysia.

"This is important not only to stimulate growth domestically but also to ensure alignment is done.

"Among the matters emphasised are facilitating the process and expediting approvals, especially for investments.

"The prime minister stressed that the approval aspect (of investments) should be prioritised, not relaxed, but expedited."

He said this after yesterday's cabinet meeting.

On Tuesday, Anwar had launched the Central Database Hub (Padu), an integrated system that ensured there were no leakages in the distribution of aid.

Padu, which combined data from government agencies under one roof, was one of the outcomes of the Madani government's approach to strengthen the economy.

According to Anwar, the commitment to develop Padu was to provide a comprehensive and integrated database of people's profile.

He said Padu served as the primary national data platform involving the integration and shar-



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, who is the government spokesman, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants the approvals of investments to be prioritised. BERNAMA PIC

ing of data among government agencies.

"This data sharing encompasses Padu merging information on income, demographics and assistance received by the population.

"By building holistic profiles for each person, it enables data analysis, and helps in formulating more precise policies to meet people's needs."

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli had said Padu would be able, if implemented successfully, cut the nation's fiscal deficit from the projected five per cent for 2023 to between three and 3.5 per cent by 2025.

Asked whether Anwar had set key performance indicators for cabinet members, Fahmi said the prime minister would organise meetings, especially with new ministers, to clarify the government's focus.

"I will hold discussions with press secretaries, including the Corporate Communication Unit, to focus on the communication aspect.

"For other ministries, the prime minister will inform the ministers about various focuses, particularly in the economic aspect, such as facilitating and expediting the approval process, especially in the investment sector."

He said discussions regarding agencies to be placed under his ministry and that of the Digital Ministry were ongoing and issues such as Digital Nasional Bhd had not been decided.

Also, Fahmi said the status of the 5G network implementation had not been obtained and the matter would be announced soon.

"However, considering that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission remains under the Communications Ministry, the secretary-general of the Communications Ministry and the Treasury secretary-general will continue to carry out their duties as co-chairs of the 5G task force.

"We expect to achieve 80 per cent 5G coverage in populated areas in the near term, enabling the implementation of dual-network 5G."

On another matter, he said the government had agreed to organise Jelajah Madani in every state, following its inaugural programme at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium last month.

He said the dates and times for this year's programmes were expected to be announced next week.

The first state to host this tour would be Selangor, followed by Negri Sembilan, he added.