

# PM expects 2024 to usher in brighter future

> 'Efforts to spur economic growth to remain govt's main focus to ease people's burden due to inflation, cost of living need for quality education and healthcare'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed hope that 2024 will usher in a brighter future for the people, with the unity government focusing on economic development to ensure their well-being.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said efforts to spur national economic growth would remain the government's focus in order to ease the people's burden due to inflation, cost of

living, need for quality education and healthcare as well as other aspects.

In his New Year message, he urged ministers, senior officers, enforcement agencies, security bodies, civil servants and the private sector to intensify efforts to turn Malaysia into a great country in the region.

'As we draw the curtain on 2023, it is appropriate for me to start by giving a summary of what has been announced to the public, that

our economic growth has been maintained at 4%.

"This is among the best, but there are other blessings and successes, including the reduction of inflation to below 2% and drop in unemployment rate to a very low level," he said in a video uploaded on his Facebook page.

He said he does not want to get carried away by figures and data because the real measure of success lies in the people's well-being, welfare and prosperity.

He added that the cost of living issue is still being addressed.

Anwar said there should be full focus on efforts to drive economic growth, and this calls for improving leadership and civil service governance.

He expressed his appreciation to the police, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Customs Department and the Inland Revenue Board for discharging their duties effectively.

He said to ensure that every government policy could be implemented more effectively, old service delivery methods should be improved, including speeding up the approval process at every department as if they are facing security issues and emergencies.

"Only through this method can we drive the economy and make the country competitive."

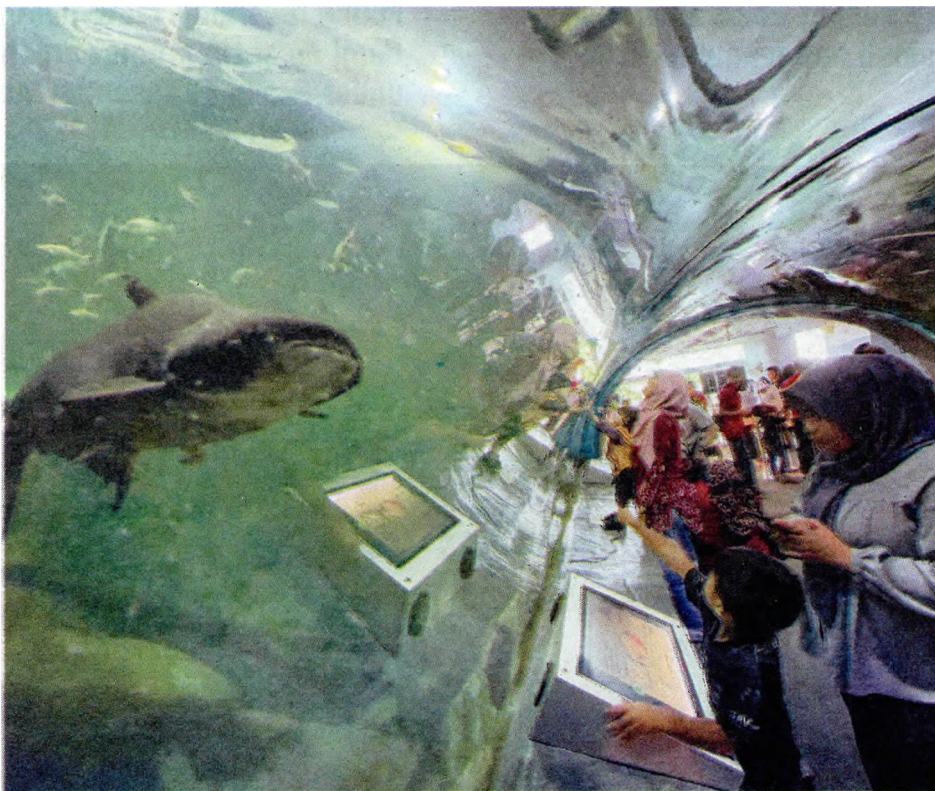
Anwar added that the question of unity and security remains a challenge, demanding priority attention, including ensuring that provisions in the Federal Constitution on the position of Islam, sovereignty of Malay rulers, Bumiputera privileges and Bahasa Melayu are not disturbed.

"The spirit of unity to embrace the people of various races and religions is a core duty which cannot be denied or trivialised. If this can be achieved, we can move away from the endless cycle of petty issues."

He said the unity government had managed to work as a team throughout last year due to the political stability achieved in the country recently after several years of uncertainty, Bernama reported.

"With the benefit of the views, advice and guidance of the Malay rulers, especially the decision and wisdom of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, we have prevailed.

"With strength and stability, we have worked as a team and tackled basic issues for the sake of the people and country."



**FASCINATING** ...Visitors enjoying New Year's Day with a visit to the National Science Centre in Bukit Kiara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. - **ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN**