

# Submit report on water issue at varsity: PM

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed the relevant party to submit a report regarding the ongoing water supply issue at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), despite the government having approved RM3 million last year to overcome the problem.

At an assembly with Finance Ministry staff yesterday, Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he had learnt from social media that UMS students are still facing water supply problems, and had raised the matter with Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir.

"I don't understand. Maybe, the project takes time. I don't want to judge. I want a report on what has happened since the RM3 million allocation was approved by the finance minister.

"Perhaps, KSP (Treasury Secretary-General Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican) can ask the secretary-general of the ministry concerned. What happened since I approved (the RM3 million allocation) and the actions taken by the ministry and the university."

On May 31 last year, the federal government approved an allocation of RM3 million to UMS to resolve its water supply problem, and yesterday Zambry announced an additional allocation of RM2 million to the university for the same purpose.

Meanwhile, in a meeting on Monday with Pahang government leaders and state Public Works Department, Anwar explained the country's financial position.

He said there were requests for allocations of between RM7 billion and RM8 billion for infrastructure-related projects in the state during the meeting.

"I see that sometimes there are states that are 'disconnected'. That's why I used the time to explain our debt, about the deficit. But if there is an urgent need, we will approve allocations, for example for management and maintenance.

"This means that the government machinery should ensure not only uniformity but also understanding. For instance, we want every officer, not only in the Finance Ministry, but in every ministry, in the state and district, to understand at least what the government's capabilities are, what the constraints are."- Bernama