

PM: APPROVE PROJECTS QUICKLY

Local authorities, state and federal governments must be efficient, says Anwar

KUANTAN

THE federal and state governments, as well as local authorities, need to change their work practises and procedures to avoid delays in approving new projects, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He yesterday reminded state secretaries to monitor the list of approved projects and update their status.

"I have had a discussion with state secretaries to remind them to monitor the list of approved projects: how many are implemented and the reasons for delays.

"Is it due to land acquisition or other approval issues?"

He said this at the launch of the Eastern Zone Madani Rakyat event at Dataran Sayangi Kuantan here.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi; Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz; Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul; Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar; and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Anwar cited the establishment of the Faculty of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, which was approved in four months, thus



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim teasing children caught up in a chess game at the Eastern Zone Madani Rakyat Programme at Dataran Sayangi Kuantan yesterday. With him is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. BERNAMA PIC

demonstrating the readiness among the people, civil servants, and academics to do something better.

"Local authorities, state and federal governments must be efficient and quick, so progress will be rapid.

"But if we are inefficient and slow, then progress will be slow. The choice is ours."

He said preparedness was crucial before the country took over the Asean chairmanship next year to ensure that it was capable of attracting investments and tourists.

He cited Google's investment of US\$2 billion in Selangor as an impressive development resulting from the state's quick approval process.

At the event, he distributed funds under the SejaTi Madani programme to 10 communities on the east coast, each valued at RM100,000.

The funds aim to boost economic activities in five sectors: agriculture and food; sewing and handicraft; herbs and health; tourism and hospitality; and green activities and recycling.

The Eastern Zone Madani Rakyat event is a continuation of the Madani Government One Year Anniversary Programme.

It has been expanded to the state level to allow the public to understand, see and evaluate new policies and initiatives implemented by the federal government.

Organised by the Prime Min-

ister's Office through the Performance Acceleration and Coordination Unit (Pacu), this programme also received cooperation from the Rural and Regional Development Ministry and the Pahang government.

At an earlier event, Anwar instructed cabinet ministers and senior government officials to pay attention to the development of villages.

"We go down and hear (from the people). We have theories to develop Madani policies.

"But we want to know the impact in villages. That is why we need to go to the ground."

He said this at the launch of the Madani village adoption programme in Kampung Chengal Lempong near here. **Bernama**