

## REFUTING NAYSAYERS

# PM DENIES POLICIES NOT CUTTING DEBT

'Govt reducing  
borrowing, fiscal  
deficit in stages'

KUALA LUMPUR

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has refuted claims that the government's monetary, fiscal and budget policies have not reduced the fiscal deficit and national debt.

Anwar said there had been a hue and cry in the past few weeks that the government was not telling the truth.

"We have been attacked on social media, but the information given is false," he said in a video posted on X yesterday.

Anwar said some of the claims were unfounded and irresponsible political swipes.

On Monday, the prime minister said the government aimed to reduce annual borrowing to RM86 billion this year from RM93 billion in 2023.

He had said the government had inherited RM1.5 trillion in debts.

"In 2021 and 2022, external and internal (annual) debts amounted to RM100 billion respectively.

"When we took over the government in 2023, we were told the situation was untenable with the accumulated and rising debt."

Anwar said the government could not eliminate all debts as this would affect projects for the people as well as obligations to repay old debts.

"The debt level is high and now, at 64 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). Our target is to reduce it in stages to at least 60 per cent," he said.

He said the fiscal deficit had been lowered to 5.0 per cent of GDP in 2023 from 5.6 per cent in 2022, and this year it is projected to be reduced to 4.3 per cent.

"I present these figures, which are being defended as being truthful. The Finance Ministry, along with the Department of Statistics, release the data from time to time," he added. **Berna-**  
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