

PM calls for even growth in society

Senior govt officials told to take their responsibility or villages seriously

KUANTAN: All ministers and the Chief Secretary to the Government have been told to take their responsibilities seriously in monitoring the condition of villages across the country to further enhance the wellbeing of villagers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said his directive also applies to all secretaries-general of ministries and senior government officials.

He said the directive does not mean that they have to conduct daily monitoring, but rather to check in once a month or every two months to ensure that village development is not neglected, as development cannot focus solely on urban areas.

"Yes, the government has its machinery, but sometimes the messages are not delivered.

"That's why, through this Kampung Angkat Madani (Madani Adopt a Village) programme, all ministers, including the PM, the Chief Secretary, secretaries-general, and senior government officials, must adopt a village, either their own or any other.

"Why? Because everybody has their own theories about the



Delicate: Anwar (centre) signing a piece of crafted woodwork with the words 'Malaysia Madani' during the launch of the Madani Rakyat 2024 programme in Kuantan. Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (second row). - Bernama

economy, social issues, health, education, etc.

"But how do we measure the success of the government's initiatives for the grassroots if they don't go to the ground?" he said when launching the national-level Kampung Angkat

Madani 2024 programme at Kampung Chengal Lempong, Balok here yesterday, reported Bernama.

Also present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and Deputy Domestic Trade and Cost of Living

Minister Fuziah Salleh.

Anwar said he personally had been visiting his adopted village in Cherok Tok Kun, Penang, for the past few months and held meetings to understand the issues in the village.

"I was bom in Sungai Bakap,

but at the age of five, I moved to Bukit Mertajam and Cherok Tok Kun.

"I grew up in Cherok Tok Kun, so I chose Cherok Tok Kun. I even called the imam, the headmaster, and teachers to look into school dropout issues to learn why a student stopped attending school," he said.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the launch of Kampung Chengal Lempong as Kampung Angkat Madani is part of the government's initiatives to assess the effectiveness of policies announced by the government.

He said that sometimes policies announced by the government are not fully understood by the people, but that problem can be resolved if leaders and senior government officers go down to the grassroots to provide explanations.

At the event, Anwar also presented grants of RM100,000 each to the Village Development and Security Committee and the residents' association of Kampung Chengal Lempong.

He also presented donations to 1,000 asnaf (tithe recipients) in Indera Mahkota and 401 fishermen in the area.