

# Unity govt committed to solving water problems

> Issue affects everyone in all states regardless of political alliances, says prime minister

**BUTTERWORTH:** The unity government will strive to solve water woes in all states, including those governed by the Opposition despite differences in political beliefs, to ease the burden of the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he had held discussions with various parties, including Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob, in an effort to resolve the issue, especially in opposition states.

"In Nibong Tebal, there are water issues. In Kedah, there are water issues. In Kelantan, there are water issues and Sabah too has water issues. We will try to solve these issues and in Kelantan, I asked the menteri besar and he informed me that pumps used to draw water are not (good) enough and what I did was to issue a directive to buy the (right) pumps immediately.

"This is not about political alliances, this is about the hardship of the people. We do it to assist the people. Mat Sabu (Agriculture and Food

Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu) has also decided to carry out cloud seeding in Kelantan to induce rain. We are doing it to solve water issues," he said when opening the Penang Madani National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (Tekun) at the Seberang Perai Arena in Seberang Jaya on Saturday.

Also present were Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick Deputy Minister Datuk R. Ramanan and Tekun Nasional chairman Datuk Abdullah Sani Abdul Hamid.

Anwar said Penang, especially Nibong Tebal, is facing water woes due to insufficient water from the river.

He said the government decided to discuss this with the Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Shah and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad in an attempt to solve the problem.

Anwar said the discussions yielded positive results as the government conducted a study that

revealed the region surrounding Sungai Perak has an abundance of water resources that are more than adequate to meet the state's needs, Bernama reported.

Excess water could be channelled to Kerian in Perak and onwards to areas such as Sungai Acheh, Sungai Bakap, Nibong Tebal and Batu Kawan.

"Finally, we succeeded in approving the project (Projek Air Perak-Pulau Pinang) with an allocation of RM4 billion. Who is this for? For the people of Perak and Penang," Anwar said.

He added that the Madani government had carried out various initiatives for the people, through good governance and administration despite certain quarters trying to portray the government as doing otherwise.

When asked to comment on Tekun Nasional, Anwar said the objective of the agency is to provide simple and quick financing facilities in order to kickstart and further expand their businesses.

He pledged that if Tekun Nasional continued to show progress through good governance, allocation for the agency, which is under the Entrepreneurial and Cooperative Development Ministry, would be increased in Budget 2025.