

Criticism over unpopular decisions do not faze us: Anwar

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stressed that the *Madani* government remains resolute despite facing criticism for unpopular decisions such as implementing targeted diesel subsidy and taking strict measures against corruption.

He said the moves were crucial to strengthen the country's economic foundation as its revenue was wasted and subsidies were not channelled to target groups.

Anwar highlighted the necessity of targeted diesel subsidy due to longstanding issues of fuel smuggling, which diverted to other countries the subsidy meant for Malaysians.

"We cannot disregard the people's concerns. Therefore, the savings garnered must be returned to the people.

"This necessitates our commitment to providing clarifications, even amid

challenges," he said during a gathering of Finance Ministry staff yesterday.

Anwar said the government has faced numerous allegations, including accusations of being a foreign agent for certain countries.

"I often respond briefly, but I'm unfazed because we have a job to do. It's challenging in this country where hate politics are deeply rooted."

He also expressed disappointment that facts were disregarded in the criticisms.

"Not taking a salary, I am being belittled. Despite our firm stance against corruption, we are (still) being looked down upon and (engagement) with Hamas, also the same. Then with the BlackRock issues, (we are called) a Jewish agent. The facts have been completely disregarded.

"So, what is being said is driven by hatred. Should this bother us? No," said Anwar. - Bernama