

PM: LTAT, FELDA HAVE 2 WEEKS TO EXPLAIN

Need to stop the rot, shortcomings and weaknesses highlighted in AG's Report, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given the Armed Forces Fund Board (LTAT) and Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) two weeks to explain issues highlighted in the 2022 Auditor General's Report.

He said the two agencies had been told to submit reports to him.

"Yes, notices for explanations and full details have been issued, even though this matter is from the 2022 audit.

"I have requested reports. We give them notice of two weeks to submit them. Then the cabinet will discuss."

Anwar was speaking after performing Friday prayers at Surau Amaniah at the Putrajaya police headquarters.

Auditor General Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi had flagged the LTAT over its diminishing investment returns in two subsidiaries.

Also flagged was the LTAT's decision to pay dividends derived from non-cash profits to contributors.

She found that LTAT had been recording a negative balance in its reserves since 2020.

She said the LTAT's reserve stood at RM376 million in 2020, RM285 million in 2021 and RM338 million in 2022.

She also raised concerns about Felda, which saw its net loss rise to RM1.005 billion in 2022 from RM545 million in 2021.

It was revealed that Felda's outstanding loans from external institutions amounted to RM8.659 billion, a slight decrease from RM8.809 billion in 2021.

Asked whether there was a need to set up a committee to investigate the issue, Anwar said the AG's Report would be examined first before ministries and agencies gave explanations.

"What's important is that we need to stop the rot, shortcom-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being greeted by police officers after Friday prayers at Surau Amaniah at the Putrajaya police headquarters yesterday. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

ings and weaknesses."

Earlier, Anwar performed Friday prayers with a congregation of more than 100 people at Surau Amaniah.

He was accompanied by Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Natusion Ismail, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Moktar and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain.

After prayers, Anwar had lunch at the surau.

On another matter, Bernama reported that Anwar said Malaysia needed to be bold in making changes, not only with ministers and politicians, but also the people as a whole.

In a Facebook post, he said all Malaysians had a role and responsibility to bring the country to a higher level of development.

"No matter what language is spoken, wherever we are, while respecting the diversity of races, cultures and religions, let's never forget our role in lifting the dignity and status of Malaysia.

"To those who are fighting and working to put the country's name on the world stage, continue this noble effort."

Anwar called on Malaysians to make the country even greater, one that the next generation will be proud to inherit.

Meanwhile, Minister at the Chinese embassy in Malaysia Zheng Xuefand said China appreciated Anwar's stance on "China-phobia" among the United States and its allies, Bernama reported.

Zheng said Anwar's remarks reflected the wish of developing

countries in pursuing independence and development.

"We note with appreciation the remarks by Prime Minister Anwar recently, which decried the 'China-phobia' among US and western allies and upheld Malaysia-China friendship.

"The development of China is an opportunity for the world rather than a threat to anyone," he said in a meeting with Bernama chairman Datuk Seri Wong Chun Wai during a courtesy visit to the national news agency.

Zheng said Malaysia was a friendly neighbour to China and one of the priorities in China's neighbourhood diplomacy, adding that it will continue to work with Malaysia to elevate bilateral relations to a new level.

Anwar, in an interview with *Financial Times* last month and again during his official visit to Australia this week, stressed that Malaysia would not be dictated to by any country over its relations with China, saying that "we are fiercely independent".

He also decried growing "China-phobia" among western nations.

On Asean, Zheng said China would work closely to support Malaysia in playing a greater role in Southeast Asia and international affairs and push Asean-China relations as well as the East Asia cooperation to new heights.

Malaysia will assume the Asean chairmanship next year and take over as Asean-China coordinator this July.

This year marks the 50th year anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations.