

'KELANTAN WON'T BE LEFT BEHIND'

Madani govt will ensure Kelantan progresses like other states, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has once again reiterated that the Madani government will do its utmost to ensure that Kelantan progresses alongside other states.

Anwar said this at the state-level Madani Aidilfitri celebration at the Rural Transformation Centre in Bandar Baru Tunjong here on Thursday night.

Present was Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Nassuruddin Daud.

In his speech before 15,000 attendees, the prime minister announced a slew of good news for the state.

Among them was the upgrading of the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa to an international airport.

"To enable the airport to become an international airport, the fed-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Mohd Nassuruddin Daud attending the state-level Madani Aidilfitri celebration in Kota Baru on Thursday, bernama pic

eral government has agreed to extend the runway by 400m," Anwar said.

With the extension, he added, haj and umrah journeys could depart directly from the state.

"The first phase of the airport project has been completed and the menteri besar has thanked the government for that."

Anwar also directed the purchase of 20 water pumps for use by farmers worth RM20 million.

He also promised that the water supply project implementation in the state will be expedited.

"I was informed that the hot

weather has caused rivers in the state to dry up and many are suffering because of this.

"Therefore, I have ordered the water supply project to be expedited, including to buy water pipes."

Anwar gave his assurance that the issues faced by more than 1,000 hardcore poor household heads in the state would be resolved within two months.

He added that a new tahfiz school would be constructed in the state.

Anwar, in his speech, said continuous political friction would not

benefit the people and pledged to implement projects without discriminating against states.

Anwar said his visit to Kelantan was exceptional, especially because it was the first time that direct discussions were held between the state government's leadership and the federal government.

Earlier, Bernama reported that Anwar held a closed-door meeting with the menteri besar on the state's development.

The prime minister was accompanied by Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad and Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing.

Also present at the meeting were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali and Public Service director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

Nassuruddin expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for treating Kelantan like other states.

"The political season occurs once every five years during elections.

"After being given the mandates, the federal and state governments must focus on the people, and this is our responsibility."