

# PM: PAY HIKE WILL SPUR CIVIL SERVANTS

**Anwar: Their extra motivation will draw even more foreign investments**

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**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed confidence that the rise in wages will make civil servants more disciplined and motivated to carry out their duties and prevent leakages and corruption.

The prime minister said this would lead to even more foreign investments to help the country.

He said the country and its people could reap even more rewards and blessing from the Almighty if battling corruption and wastage was shouldered by all, especially civil servants.

Anwar said he was aware of some quarters criticising the government for increasing civil servants' wages by more than 13 per cent, which was announced on May 1, especially when Malaysia faced economic challenges.

"My answer is, economic affairs is a collective responsibility.

"But if we can accord recognition, compassion, love and respect to civil servants, workers, police, army and others, coupled with discipline and tackle corruption, I believe this country can reap even better rewards.

"It's true that the government has to bear this and find it (additional funds for the expenditure).

"But I believe if the government machinery is efficient and good, then naturally people (investors) will come, as seen from Microsoft, which announced a RM10.5 billion investment in Malaysia.

"Four days ago, I met Saudi Arabian Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, and ACWA Power (a Saudi-based renewable energy giant), which will invest more than US\$10 billion in Malaysia.

"This is thanks to our political stability and peace.

"Who else is responsible for this



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim signing a plaque to officiate a commemorative stamp to mark International Firefighters Day in Ipoh yesterday. PIC BY L. MANIMARAN

peace if not our defence agencies, especially the police, who are civil servants."

He said this in his speech after witnessing the handover of the Sultan Nazrin Shah 69 Commando Camp at Ulu Kinta here yesterday.

The document was handed over by Home Ministry Development Division secretary Ahmad Fuad Apendi to Public Works Department (Building Sector) deputy director-general Datuk Ir Badioezaman Ab Khalik, who is acting PWD director-general.

Present were Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain.

Anwar said although the government had inherited a large debt, it would not forgo its responsibility of ensuring the welfare of civil servants, police personnel and other agencies under the Home Ministry.

"This is why, in the framework of the civil servants' salaries revision, we are also studying a number of aspects that had previously been on the sidelines.

"We will give attention to these even if it means we will have to shoulder a huge national debt.

"Those committing corruption, leakages and wastage are few.

"If the whole government machinery and enforcement bodies are strict and firm about tackling this, I am sure we can tackle it.

"This is my aim. That is why I took this decision (to raise civil servants' wages).

"If this spirit is adopted, I am certain that in the coming years, Malaysia can become among the greatest countries in the region."

At an earlier event to commemorate International Firefighters Day on Jalan Tambun, Sunway City here, Anwar said raising civil servants' salaries despite the uncertain economic conditions was to appreciate public sector workers, including security forces and firefighters.

He said these civil servants were at the forefront whenever the country faced disasters and untoward events.

He criticised those who disputed the move to raise the salaries of civil servants, including among members of parliament who wanted to thwart the move in Parliament.

"Yes. I know there are critics. There are members of parliament who say: 'Oh maybe Parliament won't pass it (the wage increase).'

Anwar said: "I want to see who wants to oppose the increase in public service allowances and salaries.

"If there are people who dare to oppose this without a reason, we will defeat them in the election."

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim inspecting the Central District Fire and Rescue Academy brass band at the International Firefighters Day celebration in Ipoh yesterday.