

Proposal for top leaders to oversee village welfare

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is planning to propose a unique initiative to the cabinet: Assigning one leader, including himself, to oversee the welfare of a village.

This proposal stemmed from insights gathered in a meeting with community leaders from Permatang Pauh yesterday.

He said the government had substantial allocations to help the poor amounting to tens of billions of ringgit.

However, he acknowledged discrepancies in the distribution of funds, including leakages.

“I see that the government has various projects now, including eradicating hardcore poverty, that can help villagers.

“For a start, I, as the prime minister, choose to look after my home village (Kampung Cherok Tokun), and other leaders can choose other villages.

“Currently, we have more than 2,000 high-ranking leaders. They will not go to the villages with their ranks, but as *anak kampung* who are able to resolve issues faced in their assigned villages,” he said at the Kenduri Rakyat Aidilfitri Perpaduan in Galeri Pe-

juang Cherok Tokun here yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow and Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

Anwar announced that each village would receive a minimum of RM50,000 under the Madani Budget, with the flexibility to access up to RM100,000 for economic projects determined by the villagers themselves.

“I will present this proposal and ask the director-general of the ICU (Implementation Coordination Unit) to provide an SOP (standard operating procedure),” he said.