

Civil servants urged to justify confidence accorded by govt

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged civil servants to maintain their service integrity to justify the recognition and confidence accorded them by the government through salary adjustments under the Public Service Remuneration System.

Speaking at a monthly gathering of staff of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday, he said civil servants should identify individuals who tarnish the reputation of the service.

"So, I ask that while we provide a somewhat radical shift in terms of recognition and rewards to civil servants, you should monitor your departments and colleagues to

> Wage hike approved despite economic uncertainties, as PM adopted Madani perspective of compassion, humanity

identify those who tarnish the reputation of civil servants.

"There is a small group involved in corruption, absenteeism and various problems. Should we treat this small group the same way? My answer is no, we will not provide the same treatment."

Also present were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, and Chief Secretary

to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the government has made a radical and bold decision to increase the salaries of civil servants when the country has not fully recovered from economic uncertainties and problems such as leakages and corruption.

"If we follow economic considerations, standard economic-

theory, all salary increases should be postponed until the economy is more stable, meaning less debt.

"But I see it from the perspective of *Madani* compassion, humanity, efficiency level and sustainability. Why should we burden civil servants for mistakes not solely of their making but sometimes due to mismanagement and negligence by many other parties?"

"Based on this consideration, they should not be made to shoulder the burden. It is appropriate for us as the father figure in the large government family to make the bold decision (to increase civil servants' salaries)."

He said the decision to increase the salaries has also been extensively discussed with the top government management such as Mohd Zuki and Public Service Department director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

Anwar said the decision to increase salaries is to instil confidence in public sector workers that the *Madani* government leadership is genuinely serious about finding the best possible way to help.

He expressed confidence that the proposed salary hike would be approved by Parliament during the Budget 2025 session in October, Bernama reported.

"There are some who dispute, saying it's not settled yet and Parliament may not approve it

"I would like to know which MP wants to object Even if they oppose, we have Pakatan Harapan, Barisan Nasional, Gabungan Parti Sarawak and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah to give two-thirds majority (support), *Insyallah*."

On May 1, in conjunction with the national-level 2024 Labour Day celebration, Anwar announced a salary hike for civil servants of more than 13% effective December, involving an allocation of more than RM10 billion.

Anwar said the salary adjustment would ensure that the lowest-ranking civil servants would earn at least RM2,000 a month.



FESTIVE COLOURS ... Anwar with Sarawak Immigration Department staff at a Madani Aidilfitri event in Putrajaya yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**