

Efficiency of civil servants vital for economic growth, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed confidence that the nation's economic landscape will significantly improve if civil servants are efficient and swift in carrying out their duties.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said if civil servants adhere to these aspects in their daily tasks, Malaysia would attract global attention in terms of investments.

"So, focus on this aspect, and you'll see that our economic landscape will change, and I wholeheartedly believe in it. Leave the rest (politics) to me and my colleagues," he said in his speech at the Finance Ministry's monthly assembly yesterday.

Regarding civil servants who are not serious and committed in carrying out their daily tasks, Anwar said strict action would be taken against them.

"That's why I am sometimes stern with a small group of civil servants who deviate from this spirit. I always urge for fairness from society and the media. Do not let the behaviour and misconduct of this minority reflect the discipline and spirit of civil servants as a whole."

Anwar said foreign nations'

confidence in Malaysia is evident through their participation in the Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2024 exhibitions.

In total, the DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 exhibitions saw participation from 1,324 companies representing 60 countries, with 34 countries having their own pavilions, including Turkiye, China, the United Arab Emirates, Italy and the United States.

"This is rarely seen in exhibitions organised by developing countries like Malaysia."

On Monday, Anwar officially opened the DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 exhibitions held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Anwar said Malaysia has also received investments from Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and ACWA Power (ACWA).

Microsoft recently announced an RM10.5 billion investment over the next four years, while AWS is set to invest RM25.5 billion in Malaysia, and ACWA Power will invest RM47.4 billion over the next decade.

He said foreign investments, which



would boost the country's revenue, were taken into account when deciding on civil servants' salary increases.

"Some argue it's not a rational

economic policy - how can you spend more for your civil servants and then you want to reduce debt? I think it's about how we manage our economy and the expertise here."

On May 1, Anwar announced a salary hike of more than 13% for civil servants effective this December, involving an allocation of over RM10 billion. - Bernama

Visitors to the Defence Services Asia and National Security Asia exhibitions in Kuala Lumpur yesterday getting a feel of some of the guns displayed.

- **AMIRUL SYAFIQ /THESUN**