

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reiterated that his delegation has not, in any way, used private company funds to cover the cost of flights for the recent official visits to four countries.

He said yesterday the expenses, amounting to RM1.6 million, were fully borne by the government.

Anwar said unused seats on the chartered Malaysia Airlines flight were offered to private companies that had legitimate business purposes in the countries involved, such as investment or joint ventures, and these companies paid their respective costs, totalling RM4.5 million.

"If we had used the government's executive jet, the cost to the government would have been RM2.5 million for the visit to the four countries. However, with this (flight) sharing approach, the cost to the government was only RM1.6 million.

"I repeat, the government did not use private company funds. There is no conflict of interest. Do not get caught up in slander in this age of

# No private company funds utilised for recent trips: PM

> 'Flight sharing on chartered MAS plane cost only RM1.6 million instead of RM2.5 million if govt executive jet was used'

madness," he said in his latest post on his Facebook page.

He was responding to *Sinar Harian's* report quoting C4 Centre CEO Pushpan Murugiah as saying that Anwar's use of private company funds for overseas trips could lead to pressure from the companies involved for favours.

Pushpan reportedly said while

financial considerations may be the primary factor in the decision, the government should also take into account the potential for conflict of interest between public and private sectors.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil had previously reported that the government managed to save nearly RM1 million on flight costs for

Anwar's recent official visits overseas.

Fahmi, who is also the unity government spokesman, said the government only incurred RM1.662 million for the chartered flight using Malaysia Airlines' Airbus A350, compared with the RM2.5 million for using the government's official aircraft.

In another Facebook post, Anwar said the *Madani* government had implemented various reforms to protect the people's welfare and elevate the country to the highest level during its two years of governance.

"However, we still have a long way to go to truly realise the *Madani*

vision. Therefore, this government will continue to work and formulate more initiatives and policies that favour the people as much as possible, God willing."

Anwar also uploaded an infographic of several initiatives implemented during the second year of the *Madani* government's administration, Bernama reported.

Among them are the *Rahmah* Cash Contribution that benefits nine million B40 recipients, the *Rahmah* Basic Contribution to purchase basic necessities at 600 retail stores and supermarkets, and the People's Income Initiative for the B40, poor and hardcore poor groups.