



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the launch of the Sabah International Blue Economy Conference at the Sabah International Convention Centre in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. With him is Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor (right). PIC COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

NATION'S PROGRESS

PM: GOOD GOVERNANCE VITAL FOR STABILITY

Anwar lauds Sabah for overcoming political challenges through sound policies

OLIVIA MIWIL
KOTA KINABALU
news@nst.com.my

A GOVERNMENT that adopts good governance and responsible leadership ensures political stability and progress, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said good governance enabled the government to formulate and implement clear policies to guide development for the benefit of the people.

Citing Sabah as an example, Anwar said despite facing political challenges over the past few years, the state had achieved political stability through sound policies.

"I believe, as (Chief Minister (Datuk Seri) Hajiji (Noor) has mentioned, we have clear policies, clear support, a strong commitment and a desire

to cooperate.

"I have seen this in Sabah. Congratulations to the entire team (Sabah government) for achieving political stability, and we are fortunate."

He said this at the launch of the Sabah International Blue Economy Conference at the Sabah International Convention Centre here. Present was Hajiji.

Anwar added that with political stability, the country and the state could formulate policies that would improve the wellbeing and livelihood of the people.

"We are fortunate that after the turmoil in the political arena, we found political stability two years ago.

"Political stability is not the answer. What is more important is the governance and responsible leadership to free the country from corruption and abuse of power."

He said Sabah, which has traditionally relied on the timber industry, had made significant progress as it moved towards industrialisation, food security, and now a blue ocean economy.

On other matters, he said the 2025 Budget was partially inspired by his visits and meetings with the people in Lahad Datu.

He added that while budget inputs were provided by experts, he

acknowledged that the wisdom of people from rural areas should not be underestimated.

"I can't underestimate the importance and wisdom of the rural folks.

"I'm speaking to the children and my grandchildren at SK Lahad Datu.

"Then I realised, 'what can we offer?' They look up to us with such expressions of affection, love and respect.

"And we must reciprocate and understand that we have a responsibility, not only to our own children and families, but to all the children in this country."

He had visited Felda Sahabat in Lahad Datu last month.

Anwar on Friday tabled the 2025 Budget with an allocation of RM421 billion, the largest budget in the country's history.

He said Sabah and Sarawak would receive RM6.7 billion and RM5.9 billion, respectively, in development funds.

He also said Sabah and Sarawak's Interim Special Grants rates would be increased to RM600 million each.

On the blue economy, he said it would benefit Sabah and the country.

"There will be no issue whatsoever with what is required by any state or community."