

Panel to rationalise federal statutory bodies, GLCs

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has established a special committee for the rationalisation of federal statutory bodies, including companies limited by guarantee, to address the duplication of functions and misuse of national funds in statutory bodies and GLCs.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the committee would be chaired by former Treasury chief secretary Datuk Seri Asri Hamidon.

He said to ensure proper implementation, the *Madani* monitoring unit, led by Mohd Khalid Mohamed Latiff, will oversee the

committee's work.

Anwar, who is also the Tambun MP, was responding in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday to Datuk Mohd Shahar Abdullah (BN-Paya Besar) on the reform agenda aimed specifically at GLCs, GLICs and agencies to ensure a balance between corporate objectives and the national economy.

He emphasised the need for governance principles to be upheld, saying: "Although these bodies operate independently under their respective boards, they must not overlook governance principles. We have observed

instances when management compensation is excessively high."

He also stressed the need for intervention by the National Audit Department, citing difficulties in monitoring operations at lower levels and the recurring losses recorded by various agencies.

He added that World Bank findings from studies on state-owned enterprises across several countries in 2023 have been taken into account.

"This is the reason we are re-examining the issue," Anwar said.

In response to additional questions from Hassan Abdul Karim (PH-Pasir Gudang) on the appointment of board members, Anwar said all appointments would undergo rigorous screening processes, including reviews by Bank Negara Malaysia, the Inland Revenue Board, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and police to ensure candidates have clean records.

"Those appointed are professionals. Whether they have held political positions is not the issue. We do not discriminate. However, the condition is that most of them are professionals." - Bernama