



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (second from left) checking out a booth at the Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agro Tourism Exhibition (MAHA) 2024 at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

ANWAR: END CARTEL CONTROL OF SEEDS, FERTILISERS

This requires political will, decisive action by minister in charge, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for an end to the old practice of procuring seeds

and fertilisers through cartels and monopolies.

He said ending this required political will and decisive action from the minister in charge.

“Seeds should no longer be obtained through cartels or monopolies. Same for fertiliser.

“We need a firm minister and

stance. The outdated cartel practice in importing fertiliser must stop,” he said in his speech at the Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agro Tourism Exhibition (MAHA) 2024 at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang yesterday.

Present were Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, his deputy Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Anwar said decisions must be made based on facts and what benefited farmers, fishermen and small planters the most.

He said Mohamad was implementing this approach.

To ensure productivity, he said, the entire ecosystem must be well organised.

“The ecosystem has to run. If we talk about production and we don’t think about capital, we don’t

follow up with marketing, we don’t think about productivity, it is incomplete.

“This is an old theory, not a new theory. Economists in the past emphasised this.”

He expressed confidence that the agricultural landscape would transform in a year or two, saying that this confidence stemmed from the progress and advancements in Mohamad’s ministry under his leadership.

“Going by the pace of change and progress in the ministry, with the focus on durian and other things, I am confident that in one or two years, we will see the agricultural landscape change.

“So I hope all agencies, the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and others, including the agriculture and fisheries departments, take this as a challenge.”

Anwar commended the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority for improving its marketing.

“In the first few months, I was quite critical of Fama. From a marketing point of view, Fama is a cornerstone.

“I pushed so hard that the minister had to persuade me to be gentler. Now, I can acknowledge that Fama’s performance has significantly improved.”