

Govt to rationalise statutory bodies

Move is to reduce their number and update their roles, says PM

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PUTRAJAYA: Rationalisation of statutory bodies are on the cards to reduce their number and to update their roles and functions, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister revealed that a dedicated secretariat has been established to oversee this process and ensure these organisations operate efficiently.

"These are among reforms in the civil service which have yet to take place. I want it to be done as soon as possible," he said during the Finance Ministry's monthly assembly yesterday.

He explained that the exercise is necessary due to the large number of statutory bodies, some of which have overlapping functions.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, highlighted issues of excessive spending within certain statutory bodies, noting instances where new office renovations and vehicle purchases for newly appointed chairmen contributed to unnecessary costs.

"Some perceive the position given to them as a reward and they flaunt wealth, which is from

the nation's coffers. This must be stopped," he said.

On another matter, the Prime Minister assured staff of agencies under the ministry, particularly the Customs Department and the Inland Revenue Board (LHDN), to carry out their duties without fear.

He vowed to defend them against those who question them in doing their job as long as they perform their responsibilities honestly.

"To Customs and IRB officers, proceed with your duty professionally. If there are appeals, address them through the right process," he said.

Anwar acknowledged receiving complaints over tax payments and collections by the LHDN.

"However, I pointed out that if you didn't pay taxes then, it doesn't mean you need not pay now.

"If you are used to paying a small amount, it doesn't mean you can continue to do so.

"My advice to the officers is this, just carry on with your duties. I do not care about threats and pressure. If they think they can threaten me, they are dealing with the wrong person," he said.



Money matters: Anwar attending the Finance Ministry's monthly assembly in Putrajaya. — Bernama