

Govt never sidelined Kelantan, Terengganu, says Anwar

BACHOK: The federal government has never sidelined the people of Kelantan and Terengganu, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said this was reflected in the consistent increase in allocations to both opposition-led states under the Madani government, as well as higher compassionate fund payments in recent years.

"In 2023, Kelantan received RM588 million in federal allocations. This year, the figure rose to RM762 million, which is an increase of 30 per cent.

"For Terengganu, allocations rose by 28 per cent from RM1.57 billion in 2023 to RM2.02 billion

last year," he said.

Anwar said the allocations were channelled to the state governments, including through per capita grants, concurrent grants, and compassionate funds.

"I took the opportunity to clarify this today to the people of Kelantan, as many have accused the federal government of neglecting Kelantan and Terengganu, claiming the two states had been denied compassionate payments.

"It's fine if some parties disagree with our policies, but don't accuse us of not providing allocations," he said.

Anwar said federal government

allocations remained the main source of funding for Kelantan and Terengganu, surpassing revenue from other sources.

"For Kelantan, the state is expected to receive RM762 million in federal allocations this year, compared with around RM500 million from other revenue sources.

"For Terengganu, the federal government has allocated RM2 billion, while state-generated revenue is estimated at RM250 million," he said.

"Only three states receive more than RM1 billion annually in federal allocations — Sarawak, Sabah, and Terengganu."

Anwar said the federal government had special provisions for programmes in Kelantan and Terengganu, to be implemented by the Implementation Coordination Unit under the Prime Minister's Department.

"For Kelantan, the approved allocation for 2025 is RM25 million, compared with RM20 million in 2024.

"Terengganu, meanwhile, received RM60 million for 2025, up from RM50 million the year before."

Anwar also said the flood mitigation project in Kelantan would be expedited to tackle the yearly problem.

He said the project, which involved several phases, required a large budget and the land acquisition must be carried out swiftly.

He said the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry and the Economy Ministry had been tasked with identifying new approaches to address the issue.

"We cannot allow Kelantan to experience uncontrolled flooding every year, regardless of which government is in power."

Anwar said that while there might be differences between the federal government and the Kelantan government, their objective remained aligned.