

Civil service urged to embrace new technologies

PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants must embrace new technologies to reduce reliance on external consultants.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged civil servants to be exposed to new technologies in order to enhance their efficiency and reduce reliance on foreign and external consultants.

Anwar said current demands require a shift in mindset and the full potential of civil servants must be harnessed for the country's development.

Recalling the era of the 1980s and 1990s, he added that decisions related to fiscal policy, economics, finance and development projects were largely made and implemented by civil servants, with minimal input from consultants.

"I observed that projects were carried out

efficiently, which means that with proper emphasis and training, civil servants are capable of handling these responsibilities.

"But when I took over, I saw far too much dependence on foreign and external consultants," he said during a dinner event honouring the former chief secretary to the government (KSN) and the public service remuneration system (SSPA) team on Monday.

As a result, Anwar said he had recommended to the KSN that a revamp be carried out and that young civil servants be trained to build the necessary expertise, skills and capabilities to meet national needs.

He emphasised that the performance of the civil service must be restored by assigning impactful responsibilities and providing targeted training.

"It does not have to be formal like a master's or PhD. Any exposure or specialised training, particularly in emerging technologies, is valuable," he added.

Touching on the recent implementation of the SSPA, Anwar credited its success to the spirit of teamwork and collective commitment to national reform.

"It reflects an ambition to bring change. We must accept that the country cannot reach its full potential if we continue using outdated methods.

"If we are serious about strengthening our national capacity, we have to acknowledge that old approaches are no longer sustainable," he said.

The SSPA, which came into effect on Dec 1, 2024, replaces the Malaysian Remuneration System. - Bernama