

# PM TICKS OFF HOUSING DEVELOPER

He says all large affordable housing developments must include schools

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim ticked off the developer of a new government housing project in Cheras yesterday for omitting schools and places of worship from its development plan.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Residensi Wilayah Aman Lumayan project in Bandar Seri Permaisuri, Anwar said all large affordable housing developments must include schools.

"Is there a secondary school or a primary school? We must ensure at least one is provided.

"If not, convert one block into a vertical school. One block can serve as the school, another must fulfil other requirements."

Anwar also asked whether a mosque or surau was planned in the development.

"If there is one, Alhamdulillah. If not, inform the planners and developers to make it happen."

He questioned the absence of planning representatives at the ceremony.

"Where is the director of plan-

ning? Is the acting director of planning here? No? Where is the planning representative for the people? Not here either?"

Residensi Wilayah Aman Lumayan is one of the Madani government's affordable housing schemes.

Anwar said national development should prioritise the needs of ordinary people, especially those in government-supported housing.

He criticised the trend of building "grand towers and iconic buildings" while public facilities like schools, clinics, hawker centres and playgrounds remained underdeveloped or poorly maintained.

"They build grand towers, sophisticated buildings for the people at the top, but when it comes to facilities for ordinary people, they're neglected.

"This must be addressed through policies that prioritise the majority," he said, adding developments under the Madani framework must be inclusive and people-focused.

He said public housing could not be treated as a numbers game but must include schools, flood mitigation, green spaces, roads,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim viewing a scale model of Residensi Wilayah Aman Lumayan in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, NSTP PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

parking and community safety.

"What I'm not satisfied with now is the education component. Even for new projects, schools must be part of it.

"The directive is clear," he said, adding that he might issue a special order to make this a national requirement.

He said h.e wanted to be a "responsible leader" by listening to the struggles of "people at the bottom, not just following plans

handed down from the top".

He said state governments, local authorities and enforcement agencies must coordinate efforts to ensure public housing projects were not only structurally sound but also liveable and integrated into their communities.

This includes ensuring access to essential services like police and fire departments.

Anwar highlighted income disparities, saying 85 per cent of

people in major cities like Kuala Lumpur ate at warung and roadside stalls, not high-end restaurants.

This reality, he said, must be reflected in development planning.

"We're not stopping anyone from opening fancy restaurants, but when it comes to government housing, the food premises must serve the people," he said.

He thanked Kuala Lumpur City Hall for building stalls and hawker areas but pointed out the condition of the roofs and floors.

"Some aren't even finished. This is the government's responsibility."

He said the government was committed to clean governance and promised that no one, including officers or cronies, would profit from commissions tied to public housing approvals.

"We started this sincerely, not to enrich officers, but to improve quality of life. Even though it burdens the country's finances, we're doing it for the people," he said.

"Sometimes when you're honest, people say you're weak, but we are here to serve."

Page 1 caption: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim checking out a scale model of a residential project in Bandar Sri Permaisuri yesterday.