

CULTURE-CENTRIC FEATURES

Anwar: Mega projects must benefit the people

IPOH: Mega projects to be implemented in the country must incorporate culture, civilisation and new technology for the benefit of the nation and the people, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said in the pursuit of development, developers sometimes merely copy ideas from abroad despite knowing that such concepts do not align with local climate, societal values and culture.

“That is why our new developments must take into account these aspects (societal values and culture) as well as the needs of the people.

“There are grand buildings and mega projects that bring no real benefit other than impressing people, and we can no longer defend such a concept of development.

“A Madani nation must always be attentive and close to the people, otherwise Madani is nothing more than a slogan.

“As such, we must think of features that can uplift the culture, civilisation and new technology for the people and the nation as a whole,” he said when at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ipoh Sentral project here.

Present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad and Transport Minister Anthony Loke.

Anwar said “mega complexes” to be developed must take into account current needs and ensure that their benefits were felt by all segments of society.

He also touched on the tendency of some developers to focus more on luxury developments while neglecting the need for affordable housing.

In Kuala Lumpur, according to him, many mega developments were built as exclusive areas for high-income earners, while public housing projects were relegated to the outskirts and less strategic locations.

“When we want to build public housing, NGOs and civil society groups object, asking why such housing should be built in already congested areas with traffic jams and inadequate facilities.

“But when you seize land indiscriminately, that seems to be acceptable?” he said. **Bernama**