

OVERSIGHT

MADANI GOVT COURAGEOUS, SAYS PM

Act and bill hand powers to Parliament
in the name of accountability

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THE Madani government has passed the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023 and tabled the Government Procurement Bill to strengthen parliamentary oversight.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday that the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023, which has been passed in the Senate, is one such initiative aimed at ensuring government policies are implemented responsibly.

"Which government is willing to hand over its powers to Parliament?"

"One example is the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023.

"If the finance minister announces a policy or debt-reduc-

tion target that Parliament approves but cannot be implemented, the minister must return to Parliament and provide an explanation.

"This is to ensure that government policies are accountable,"

He said this when officiating the Madani Rakyat Programme at Dataran Nilai.

Present were Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

Anwar said the Government Procurement Act had been tabled in Parliament, which had not been carried out in previous administrations in this form.

He said that once passed and gazetted, the act would cover all government projects at the federal, state and local authority levels, requiring them to comply with clear procedures.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Madani Rakyat Programme at Dataran Nilai in Negri Sembilan yesterday. NSTP PIC BY RAIHANA MANSOR

"Except for matters involving national security, like purchasing radar systems, which require confidentiality, all others must go through open tender processes.

"And if the finance minister or prime minister has a conflict of interest — if his son or wife is involved in the company and he influences the decision — he can be prosecuted, as it would be considered a criminal offence.

"So whether it's ministers, officers or technical staff, all will be held accountable. This is how we ensure the end of corrupt and exploitative practices.

"Only a strong and brave government would dare to surrender

such powers in the name of accountability."

Anwar said the cabinet had agreed that the federal government would settle the long-overdue land compensation payment for Syed Sirajuddin Camp in Gemas.

"At the cabinet meeting yesterday, there was good news for Negri Sembilan.

"There has been a prolonged issue, lasting for years, between the state and the federal government regarding land compensation in Gemas.

"The Madani government has decided that this must be resolved. What needs to be paid will be paid back to Negri Sembilan."

He jokingly asked the state government to offer a discount on the amount to be charged to the federal government.

Reports say the state government had offered the option of settling the premium payment for permanent ownership of the camp land via instalments.

The issue, involving 6,653ha, has been ongoing since 2014, involving three land parcels — Parcel H, Parcel J and Parcel L — with an original premium value of RM2.162 billion. However, Parcel J, which was gazetted as a Military Firing Ground since 1941, was exempted from payment, reducing the compensation amount to RM1.272 billion.