



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a rehearsal for the National Day celebration at Dataran Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

HELP FOR M40, B40

GOVT TO FINE-TUNE URBAN RENEWAL BILL

Interests of all communities will be safeguarded, says PM

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THE government will further refine the Urban Renewal Bill 2025 to ensure the rights and interests of all communities are safeguarded.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the initiative was primarily aimed at supporting the M40 and B40 groups, particularly those struggling to secure affordable housing in urban centres.

"If you look at the demographics, allegations that the bill sidelines Malays or benefits one community over another are baseless.

"The government will protect the interests of every community," he told reporters yesterday after opening the East Klang Valley Expressway Section 1, linking

the Sungai Long interchange to the Ampang interchange.

On whether engagement sessions would be held to refine the bill, Anwar said the focus was on providing better living conditions for lower- and middle-income families, adding that poverty affected all races.

"There are many poor Malays, but also poor Indians and others. We must help them obtain proper housing.

"Some families live in cramped flats. One room with six children. Or even two families squeezed into one unit. These are the realities we cannot ignore."

The Urban Renewal Bill 2025, tabled by Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming in the Dewan Rakyat, faced resistance and its debate was postponed to October.

Nga, who presented the bill for its second reading on Thursday, was interjected by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul, who clarified that under the motion submitted under Standing Order 12(1), it was not stipulated that the bill had to be completed on the same day.

Johari told Nga to continue the tabling in the next sitting. Nga agreed.

It is unclear if the decision not to continue with the third reading of the bill or its debate was made because of mounting opposition to the bill.

Several government members of parliament from PKR and Barisan Nasional have raised concerns over the bill, while the opposition have rejected it outright.

BN deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan had said the coalition's 30 MPs wanted the bill postponed and reviewed to allow for wider stakeholder engagement.

The opposition had argued that the bill risked displacing poorer Malays from urban areas.

Anwar previously addressed this in Parliament. He dismissed allegations that the bill threatened Malay rights, insisting that he would not allow the community to be marginalised.

He had said he was "not a puppet" and would continue to defend Malay and Bumiputera interests.

"Do not assume this is some strategy for the Chinese to seize Malay rights. I do not agree."

The proposed legislation had sparked protests in recent weeks, including a rally outside Parliament calling for the bill to be withdrawn.