

Anwar: 13MP allocations based on needs, not race

> Prime minister outlines nine key initiatives to uplift well-being and bolster unity

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday cautioned against turning development allocations into polemics, stressing that all initiatives under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) are implemented fairly and based on need.

Tabling the 13MP motion in the Dewan Negara, Anwar said the Madani government is committed to ensuring Malays, Chinese, Indians, Bumiputera of Sabah and Sarawak, Orang Asli, women, Persons with disabilities and youths all benefit equitably.

"I am very unhappy with such polemics because they create the impression that Malays are comfortable. The same applies to the Indian or Chinese communities. Allocations are based on needs, not race," he told the upper house.

He highlighted the Rahmah cash contribution and Rahmah basic contribution, which are distributed inclusively, with nearly 57% of recipients being Malays, 7.57 per cent Sabah Bumiputera and 6.23 per cent Sarawak Bumiputera. The Indian community has also received RM972 million through cash

contribution and basic contribution, along with RM2.5 billion in housing aid.

Anwar outlined nine initiatives under the 13MP: social empowerment based on the Madani concept, addressing cost of living, equitable economic distribution, education recovery, affordable housing, regional and rural development, strengthening high-growth industries, adopting artificial intelligence (AI) and improving government service delivery.

He stressed that the 13MP must not remain a planning document but an actionable plan monitored to ensure every project delivers tangible results, Bernama reported.

As an example, he pointed to the upgrading of 1,177 dilapidated schools as of June - the highest achievement within a short period - alongside a sharp rise in new school construction, with 102 schools built over the past two to three years compared with an earlier average of 20 to 40.

The 13MP continues the 12th Malaysia Plan and the Madani Economic Framework, with emphasis on easing cost of living pressures.

The government's move to raise the minimum wage from RM1,200 to RM1,500 and now RM1,700, coupled with progressive wages for private employees and the Public Service Remuneration Scheme, reflected this priority.

"These measures involve RM10 billion in extra expenditure this year and RM18 billion next year. For the first time, government-linked companies have set a minimum wage of

RM3,100. We hope private companies, especially profitable ones, follow this example," he added.

He said education from preschool to secondary level will continue to be strengthened, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and digital literacy, to ensure no child is left behind.

The government has also launched the Sejati Madani programme, which allows local communities to decide on development projects such as equipment purchases, livestock rearing or other initiatives.

Heritage preservation will remain a priority under the 13MP (2026 to 2030), aligned with the theme of "Reshaping Madani's Development and Economy".

Flagship projects include restoring the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Merdeka Square and the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, supported by RM1 billion allocated through Khazanah.

"Such projects not only preserve national landmarks but also restore the true meaning of our heritage," Anwar said.

He described the 13MP as a comprehensive framework to drive prosperity, strengthen national unity and enhance quality of life.

In urging senators to endorse the plan for the period, Anwar said it focuses on strategies to "raise the ceiling" by expanding growth and "raise the floor" by uplifting well-being.