



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) shovelling soil during the groundbreaking for the Bestari Jaya People's Residency Programme in Kuala Selangor yesterday. With him are (from left) Berjaya Corporation Bhd founder Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, Selangor Human Resources and Poverty Eradication Committee chairman V. Papparaidu and Housing and Local Government Ministry secretary-general Datuk Noor Azman Talib. NSTP PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

## HIGHER COSTS AND DELAYS

# PM WARNS AGAINST HOUSING CORRUPTION

**Developers, agencies must complete projects within stipulated time, Anwar says**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday he will not tolerate any corruption in housing projects as it would be detrimental and increase costs.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, directed developers and authorities to complete housing projects for the people within the stipulated timeframe once they are approved.

He said he did not want to hear of any delays in much-needed projects, particularly for lower-income groups.

"The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) must take firm action to ensure funds are not misappropriated.

"For example, if a project costs RM77 million, but RM10 million is missing due to misappropriation of funds, (it affects the project's feasibility and quality).

"I want to remind Perbadanan PRIMA Malaysia, the ministry and municipal councils that if we want to elevate Malaysia to a great nation, we must stand united and remain clean."

He said this in his speech at the

groundbreaking for the People's Residency Programme in Bestari Jaya.

Present were Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Anwar hit out at the previous federal administration for delays in projects concerning the people's wellbeing.

He said the projects include housing for lower-income groups and the floor price of rice, both of which showed no progress despite several ministerial changes.

"Ministers have changed, again and again, yet the issue remains stagnant. Sometimes, those who talk a lot are the ones who were in power before and some of them became very wealthy.

"Yet, they continue to provoke and claim that nothing has been done. Yes, maybe things are not perfect, but I always ask them, 'when you were in power, what did you do?'"

He said the country must learn from global events and see that political and economic instability is affecting other countries.

He cited as examples tensions between China and the West, the war in Ukraine and the destruction in Gaza.

"We must learn from these events. We cannot follow that path. We need peace and we must be strong.

"Those who can do business should do so. Those working in plantations must maintain discipline. Government officers must carry out their duties responsibly. I believe we can achieve this."

He said he hoped the Bestari Jaya project would serve as a model for all estate housing, allowing the ministry to develop better housing solutions for estate workers.

He said the project was a good model due to extensive public-private partnerships involving the federal government, Selangor government, PRIMA and Berjaya Corporation Bhd.

"This project has a long history. It was previously owned by a French company, but now it has been taken over.

"For decades, there were disputes here and there. I want to thank Minister Nga, who, as soon as he took office, took action to resolve the issue.

"The housing development plan here is better because the houses are well-structured for comfortable living. In the past, places like Bandar Tun Razak and Sri Perlis faced housing issues for 50 years.

"What was suitable back then no longer meets today's needs. That is why projects like this must continue."

He urged relevant agencies to speed up approvals so that work can proceed without delay.

"This means the project can be implemented immediately and, if possible, done before 2027.

"This is not a massive project, so with some extra effort, we can complete it sooner."

Last year, the government announced RM75 million in aid for the construction of People's Housing Projects to address housing issues plaguing 245 estate workers in Bestari Jaya.