

# Use iPayment at all ministries, depts by March: Anwar

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants the use of the Federal Government Electronic Receipt System (iPayment) to be expanded to all federal ministries and departments by March.

He emphasised the need to accelerate the system's implementation to ensure that the public could promptly benefit from its enhancements and streamlined services.

"It is important to remember that the true measure of success lies in how the majority of people experience the benefits of the reforms we are discussing. That is why I am calling for the iPayment programme's implementation to be expedited, moving the projected timeline from the end of April to early March," he said at the launch of Phase 2 of the iPayment system.

The system offers government service users the option to make payments online using debit, credit and prepaid cards as well as internet banking, QR code and e-wallet.

"In my view, iPayment is a significant step forward, not only as a new initiative but also in delivering direct benefits to the people by enhancing efficiency and reducing lengthy bureaucratic delays."

Anwar said Malaysia must move at a faster pace to stay ahead and avoid falling behind in digital transformation.

He added that the country's progress in this field has remained relatively stagnant compared with several other nations such as Estonia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

"When we look back 10, 15 or even 20 years, we were far ahead with all the strengths we had, but various challenges arose, ultimately causing our progress to stagnate.

"Therefore, we must catch up, and when we talk about institutional reforms, including in the public service, extraordinary speed is essential."

iPayment is an integrated electronic collection system developed by the Accountant-General's Department to manage and standardise government service payments.

It was developed in early 2022, with Phase 1 introducing an online portal. Phase 2, which began yesterday, expands its capabilities by adding payment channels at counters and through mobile applications. - Bernama