



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting an infrastructure development site for the padi planting initiative in Batu 7, Kampung Kemboja, Jerlun, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY WAN NABIL NASIR

## REPLANTING CYCLES

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# Anwar: Need to boost padi yield in Muda region

**JERLUN:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry and the Kedah government to act swiftly to ensure the success of the padi planting initiative to achieve five cultivation seasons in two years.

He said the initiative in the Muda region was close to his heart and required prompt execution and effective coordination to ensure more sustainable yields.

"I call on the state government and the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry to move quickly and work in a coordinated manner to realise this vital agenda," he said after visiting an infrastructure development site in Batu 7, Kampung Kemboja, here yesterday.

Present was Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) chairman Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muham-

mad Sanusi Md Nor and Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Natusion Ismail.

Anwar expressed confidence that the government's efforts would catalyse a holistic reform of the country's padi and rice industry ecosystem, reduce dependence on imports and strengthen the national rice self-sufficiency level.

"The Madani government listens to the voices of our farmers, understands their needs, and is committed to empowering the sector through sustained support and initiatives," he said.

Anwar added this initiative reflected the government's compassion and determination to uplift farmers, who are the backbone of Malaysia's agri-food sector.

In February, Anwar told the Dewan Rakyat the government had approved RM1 billion for Mada to boost padi production in Kedah.

According to Mada, the large-scale agricultural effort, implemented through a public-private partnership, integrates smart farming technologies to support higher productivity and long-term sustainability.

"This initiative is a catalyst for reforming the national padi and rice sector.

"By enabling five planting cycles within two years, we aim to boost self-sufficiency levels while enhancing the income of local farmers," it said in a statement.

The development consisted of two main components. The first involves the construction and maintenance of 15 tertiary irrigation blocks. The second focuses on the rehabilitation of Pedu Dam under Phase One.

The overall allocation for both components is estimated at RM1 billion.