

EASING TRAFFIC

NEW STRAITS TIMES

PM proposes homes above train stations

06 JUN 2025

pg. 3

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government is mulling building housing above train stations to reduce traffic congestion and bolster public transport use.

He said the proposal was being explored with Kuala Lumpur City Hall, adding that regulatory amendments would be required to make the initiative feasible.

Anwar said the proposed housing project would be a mixed development.

"It will include commercial housing... not all units will be public housing, but some of them will be.

"These are among the measures that will be taken (to ease traffic congestion)," he said at the *Ilmuan Malaysia Madani Siri 6* forum hosted by the Higher Education Ministry on Wednesday.

He added that building new public housing above or near public transport stations would encourage greater use of public transit nationwide.

The plan would provide strategically located homes for low-income residents while promoting a more sustainable and organised urban lifestyle.

Demand for housing remains high among lower-income com-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being briefed on the Klang Valley transit map by Prasarana Malaysia Bhd president and group chief executive officer Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah (second from left) during the Ilmuwan Malaysia Madani Siri 6 forum in Petaling Jaya on Wednesday. With him are Transport Minister Anthony Loke (second from right) and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambray Abdul Kadir (right). NSTP PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

munities in urban areas due to rising property prices, forcing many families to rent dilapidated flats.

Present at the forum were Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Prasarana Malaysia Bhd president and group chief executive officer Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah and Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Professor Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah.

Anwar also discussed vertical schools under the Kota Madani development, saying they would meet strict safety standards and feature improved designs.

"In Kota Madani Putrajaya, vertical schools will be introduced, and parking will be underground. The residential level will be a proper garden, while the school will be located above.

"If a school has a lift, it will be dedicated for school use only. So, one can walk from level 14 down

to the kindergarten or school."

Anwar said the Kota Madani project in Penang, dubbed the "Silicon Valley of Asia", would involve 10,000 housing units in Seberang Jaya and Batu Kawan, in South and Central Seberang Perai, respectively.

"This will include vertical schools, fire stations and clinics all within the vicinity, so people won't have to bear transportation costs.

"Otherwise, the MRT won't be viable as people won't use it. This can help reduce the burden on public transportation."

At the forum, Loke said if housing projects could be developed near public transport stations, reliance on private vehicles could be reduced.

"If this proposal is implemented, it will also help increase public transport usage.

"This includes a reduction in the need for parking spaces."