

'CONSENSUS, STRONG INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT NEEDED'

PM URGES PATIENCE ON REFORM AGENDA

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Anwar stresses coalition realities in push for change

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reaffirmed the government's commitment to reforms, but said meaningful change cannot be achieved overnight without consensus and strong institutional backing.

Responding to criticisms over the pace of reform, Anwar said efforts must be grounded in political reality, particularly in a coalition government that did not command a simple majority.

"I'm doing the best I can, but we have to move with wisdom.

"Some people are impatient but if you push too fast, you risk being thrown out tomorrow.

"Do we have the resources? The necessary support? Can we convince the ruling and professional elites that this mission is one shared by all?

"Where do we start? Can we carry out massive reform in one, two, or even three years? I don't know but what I do know is that there's no turning back.

"What matters is that we keep moving forward, month by month, year by year," he said in his keynote address at the launch of the Centre of Excellence for Research and Innovation in Islamic



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim officiating at the launch of the Centre of Excellence for Research and Innovation in Islamic Economies in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

amic Economies yesterday.

Anwar's remarks came days after PKR backbencher Wong Chen said he would take a two-week break to reflect on his political future.

The Subang member of parliament had also voiced concern that the government could reach the end of its term with little to show in terms of institutional reforms.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said reform was a collective effort that required broad support, and urged critics not to ignore the complex realities of coalition politics.

"For those who are impatient and want things done quickly, they are often blind to the facts.

"Keadilan (PKR) holds 31 seats in Parliament.

"Pakatan Harapan as a whole has 82.

"That's not even a simple majority. We are working in a coalition and we are fortunate that Umno and Barisan Nasional have become one of the key pillars supporting the reform agenda.

"But nothing can be taken for granted. Negotiations, discussions and engagements are essential."

He said achieving consensus with coalition partners such as Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) was critical in implementing key policies, and stressed that while the pace may vary, the direction remains clear.

"I say all these things because they are relevant. If we don't secure consensus with key partners, including GPS and GRS, then how do we support programmes like this?"