

Development projects not linked to MPs' funds, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has assured the people that development and public welfare projects in all areas will proceed, regardless of whether the funding is channelled through their members of parliament.

This includes hardcore poverty eradication programmes, which are implemented comprehensively without regional bias, he said.

"Whether or not the funds are channelled through the MPs, projects for the people will continue," he said after attending the "Ihya' Ramadan" programme with staff of the Youth and Sports Ministry here.

Anwar advised opposition MPs not to politicise the funding issue by claiming they were financially burdened due to the lack of allocations.

He said such claims were unwarranted, as all MPs, including those from the opposition, receive an income of up to RM40,000.

This includes a fixed monthly



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim attending the 'Ihya' Ramadan' programme at the Youth and Sports Ministry in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Adam Adli Abd Halim (right). BERNAMA PIC

allowance of around RM25,700, as well as other entitlements, such as parliamentary session allowances, committee meeting allowances and travel allowances.

"Many opposition MPs claim they are struggling because they do not receive allocations. Don't paint a picture as if life is too difficult," he said.

The prime minister met with the ministry's top management yesterday and attended a religious talk and performed zohor prayers in congregation.

Present were Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh, her deputy Adam Adli Abd Halim,

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz.

On the meeting, Yeoh said the prime minister provided guidance for the ministry to enhance its programmes, particularly in strengthening technical and vocational education and training for urban and rural youth.

"(During the meeting), we presented the ministry's direction, reported on the allocations received and explained how we have implemented our programmes," she said. **Bernama**