

Anwar: Reforms will continue

Institutional changes key to transparent and efficient governance, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Efforts to implement changes to ensure transparency and efficiency in financial management and public administration, as part of the government's institutional reform agenda, will be kept up, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Citing examples of reforms undertaken by the Finance Ministry, Anwar, who is also the Finance Minister, said the ministry has introduced the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which mandates strict fiscal discipline.

"It sounds simple, but it is not, because our commitments regarding deficit reduction or the budget must be fulfilled.

"Not all countries are willing to do this as it requires strong political will and determination to undertake real reforms," he said in his speech at the monthly assembly with staff of the Prime Minister's Department here yesterday, Bernama reported.

Anwar also said the implementation of the Government Procurement Act aims to ensure that the processes and procedures for government tenders and pro-

urement remain adhered to, even with changes in administration.

"The government may change, but the Act remains ... the tender and procurement processes must be complied with," he said.

On enforcement, Anwar thanked enforcement agencies such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Inland Revenue Board, National Audit Department, Royal Malaysia Police, Royal Malaysian Customs Department and Road Transport Department for their improved performance.

"Alhamdulillah, I see these agencies carrying out their duties more effectively.

"The government, including the Cabinet, the Chief Secretary to the Government and top officials in the civil service, fully support them," said Anwar.

"If there is room for improvement, we will make the necessary enhancements.

"I often remind them that even if we believe we have done well, we must recognise that there is always room for progress," he added.

He also emphasised that the

spirit of continuously improving administration aligns with Islamic teachings, referring to a hadith of Prophet Muhammad on efficiency and the pursuit of excellence (itqan fil amal).

Also present at the assembly were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, as well as Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said (Law and Institutional Reforms) and Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar (Religious Affairs).