



Anwar mingling with staff of the Prime Minister's Department at Bangunan Perdana Putra in Putrajaya yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

Govt committed to institutional reforms: PM

> Fiscal discipline, deficit reduction and strict procedures for public tenders among measures taken to ensure efficiency and transparency in administration

PUTRAJAYA: The government is committed to continuing the institutional reform agenda by implementing changes to ensure transparency and efficiency in financial management and public administration, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Citing examples of reforms undertaken by the Finance Ministry, Anwar, who is also 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 at the monthly assembly with staff of the Prime Minister's Department yesterday.

He added that the implementation of the Government Procurement Act aims to ensure the processes and procedures for government tenders and procurement are

adhered to, even with changes in administration.

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

Anwar also expressed gratitude for the improved performance of enforcement agencies such as the MACC, Inland Revenue Board, National Audit Department, police, Customs Department and the Road Transport Department.

"*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.

"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."

Anwar said the spirit of continuously improving the administration aligns with

Islamic teachings, and referred to a *hadith* of Prophet Muhammad on efficiency and the pursuit of excellence (*itqan fil amal*).

He said moderation should be observed at all government official events during Ramadan, in keeping with the spirit of the holy month, Bernama reported.

He emphasised the importance of strengthening spiritual dimensions during Ramadan, not only through acts of worship but also integrity, discipline and honesty in daily life.

"Ramadan should be a time for self-reflection and extending aid to the less fortunate, rather than holding lavish *iftar* events and other activities."

"I have noticed that sometimes, departments, agencies and government-linked companies provide contributions in an overly extravagant manner. For instance, beautifully designed packaging that may cost more than the contents, such as dates. This is a form of wastage."

Anwar said Ramadan should be a time to cultivate reading, comprehension and appreciation of the *Quran*.

"Ramadan is the month in which the *Quran* was revealed, providing guidance in distinguishing between right and wrong. So, let us take this opportunity to deepen our understanding and practise the teachings of the *Quran*"