

SABAH'S REVENUE ENTITLEMENT

'Resolution on track via legal processes under MA63 framework'

TUARAN: Sabah's 40 per cent revenue entitlement is now on a clearer path towards resolution through formal legal processes and negotiations under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) framework, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Speaking at the "Temu Rapat Dengan Pimpinan Masyarakat Tempatan dan Sahabat Usahawan Tuaran" programme here yesterday, he stressed that the federal government's commitment to

MA63 was reflected not only in its readiness to realign Sabah's financial rights, but also in several resolutions already implemented.

"This talk about the 40 per cent... it goes round and round.

"The state government brought the case. It is not easy. We're talking about billions. So I have to discuss it, check the agreement, check the case. And when it's correct, and a promise has been made, we fulfil it," he said.

Anwar, who is also finance min-

ister, said resolving state claims through negotiation and the law was essential to ensure legitimacy, accuracy and national financial stability.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said said no political party forming the next Sabah government would be able to pursue the 40 per cent revenue entitlement independently.

She said politicising the issue

with slogans such as "Sabah for Sabahans" could create negative sentiment and hinder progress.

"Whichever government is chosen by the people cannot avoid having a relationship, dialogue, and cooperation with the federal government.

"We are a federation. No state can act on its own," she said, citing regular federal-level meetings with opposition-led state governments in Kedah, Kelantan, Terengganu and Perlis as examples.