

PM: Better ties will help boost Sabah facilities

TAWAU: Close cooperation between the Federal and state governments is vital in ensuring better public facility development, including the construction of hospitals for the people in Sabah, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said having elected representatives who truly care for the people's interests and understand the problems faced by the community is a crucial factor in ensuring the continuity of development.

"This cooperation is important. That is why my administration has, in the past three years said whatever has been delayed should be completed first," he said when launching Tawau Hospital's new block.

He cited the project as among those that had been delayed for decades before finally being completed under this administration.

"We made it a priority to settle projects that were left unresolved for years," he said.

The Prime Minister said the country's national development framework prioritises education and health as the most important

sectors, unlike many other countries that focused more on defence and mega projects.

He directed the Health Ministry to look into adding another 100 to 150 beds to the hospital, as its newly completed block is already close to full capacity despite being operational only recently.

"I was informed the capacity is almost full, even with the new block. So I have asked the ministry to consider adding more beds using existing allocation," he said.

He said the completion of the RM223.65mil block - which adds 154 beds and brings the hospital's official capacity to 585 - marks a significant boost for healthcare access across the east coast of Sabah, particularly Tawau, Semporna, Kunak and Lahad Datu.

Tawau's upgraded hospital facilities now place it on par with major district hospitals elsewhere in Malaysia, he added.

"I am proud because our district hospitals, whether in Selangor, Kelantan or now Tawau are equipped with good facilities," he said.

The Prime Minister praised the



Hello there: Anwar being greeted by the people upon his arrival at the launch of Tawau Hospital's new block. Also present is Dzulkefly (right). — Bernama

dedication of the hospital workforce, reminding them that quality of care ultimately relies on the people behind the facility.

"A hospital is only as good as the service it provides. From nurses and technicians to the cleaning and kitchen staff, every-

one plays a vital role in caring for patients," he added.

Anwar said improving health-care in rural and semi-urban communities remains a top priority as inadequate facilities place disproportionate strain on families.

Earlier, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the new block expands specialist services in cardiology, geriatrics and reconstructive plastic surgery, reducing the need for patients to seek treatment outside the district.