

PRESERVING LANDMARKS

PM: OPPOSITION IS IGNORANT

RM600m allocation will safeguard historical, cultural heritage, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has lambasted the opposition as “ignorant” for questioning Khazanah Nasional Bhd’s RM600 million investment to preserve heritage buildings in Kuala Lumpur, including Carcosa Seri Negara.

Anwar, who is also finance min-

ister, said the allocation was aimed at safeguarding the nation’s historical and cultural heritage.

“They do not understand. We are preserving our historical heritage, from Carcosa Seri Negara, Dataran Merdeka, Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd to the Daya Bumi complex.

“It is like creating a heritage park. Kuala Lumpur is known for its modern technology, but it also has a vibrant cultural heritage.

“By investing here, we can at-

tract further development and investment in the surrounding areas,” he said at the Finance Ministry’s monthly assembly.

Opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin had questioned Khazanah’s decision to allocate RM600 million for the restoration of heritage buildings.

He said Khazanah should instead invest in projects that could yield higher financial returns.

During the tabling of the 2026 Budget, Anwar said Khazanah would allocate RM600 million to restore heritage buildings, including Carcosa Seri Negara, the colonial-era residence built in 1896 by Sir Frank Swettenham.

The mansion was the official residence of Malaya’s first British high commissioner. Malaysia later reclaimed it from the British government following negotiations.

Anwar said the RM600 million allocation was not welfare funding, but intended to preserve historical heritage.

He said the Sultan of Selangor appreciated the effort, as the Sultan Abdul Samad Building would also be restored.

“I mention this heritage because it reflects our history and culture, particularly the strength of the Malay community, while also embracing other communities, including Chinese and Indian.

“If you look at the layout of Carcosa Seri Negara, each room represents and showcases the richness of our culture, as well as the contributions of all communities. This also serves as an attraction for tourists.

“Carcosa Seri Negara was regarded as the most magnificent building, located on a hill in Kuala Lumpur. It is a symbol of pride and grandeur for the city.”

He said although the restoration would be carried out by Khazanah, the government would monitor the project to ensure it was commercially viable, had investment potential and aesthetic appeal for the capital city.