

# Anwar: Good governance crucial to tackling inefficiency, eradicating graft

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Efforts to embrace change and transformation in eradicating corruption and inefficiency must begin with good governance, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said it would be meaningless to speak about reform and digital transformation if corruption and abuse of power continued to persist within the system.

“When we speak of change, my foremost task is to begin with governance. How can we talk about transformation if corruption and abuse of power persist?”

Anwar, in his keynote address at the PNB Knowledge Forum 2025, also said transformation must go beyond slogans or policy rhetoric, adding that reforms would be meaningless unless they were translated into practical measures and implemented effectively.

He added that the country could no longer rely on outdated systems and practices, and meaningful change must begin with a shift in mindset and commitment.

“If this country is to move forward and build a better society, it cannot sustain the old system. There are positive aspects we can continue, but change is essential.

“We have also been talking about reform and transformation, but the real test for the government, public sector and corporations is how to make these ideas work in practice,” he said.

Anwar also acknowledged that challenging the political, social and business elites was not an easy task.

“They have influence, resources, international networks, media access and institutional connections, even within the judiciary, prosecution and corpo-

rate circles.

“This is the reality we face. That is why, in the first year, we struggled, as the government had inherited a nation burdened with huge debts.”

Citing the government’s enforcement efforts over the past two years, Anwar reiterated that RM15.5 billion in lost revenue from leakages, smuggling and corruption cases had been recovered.

He also described the government’s focus on rationalising subsidies and restructuring the economy as difficult but necessary for long-term transformation.

During the tabling of the 2026 Budget on Oct 10, Anwar announced that enforcement agencies under the Madani framework had successfully recovered and collected penalties amounting to nearly RM15.5 billion over the past two years.