

RM100 ASSISTANCE

'FOREIGN LEADERS LAUD SARA SCHEME

Direct aid to the people praised, says Anwar

BALING

THE one-off RM100 Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) aid for Malaysian adults has drawn praise from foreign leaders, with some calling it an innovative and people-centred initiative that would be difficult to replicate in their countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said his counterparts, particularly from Asean nations, had expressed admiration for Malaysia's ability to directly ease the people's burden through the programme, while acknowledging the challenges of implementing such a scheme.

"The Vietnamese prime minister (Pham Minh Chinh) recently

announced aid of about RM50 per person and he asked me how we carried out assistance such as Sara. We spent RM15 billion on this programme.

"When we talk about Sara (RM100 aid), some criticise it, but they forget that it is in addition to the Sara aid and Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah," he said at the closing of the Madani Rakyat programme at the Baling District Council Sports Complex here yesterday.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said as investments in the nation increased, the government would safeguard the people's welfare, especially the poor.

He said the true measure of a country's success lies in its ability to distribute prosperity fairly and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looking at a trolley of items that were purchased with the one-off RM100 Sumbangan Asas Rahmah aid at a supermarket in Baling yesterday, NSTP PIC BY WAN NABIL NASIR

ensure the well-being of its people, including those in remote and rural areas.

"The Madani government will continue to pay attention to regional and rural development, as well as direct assistance to the people."

He reminded all parties to carry out their responsibilities properly, whether at the state or national level.

"I hope my colleagues understand this. Do not be corrupt, do not steal the people's wealth.

"We must safeguard the people's well-being.

"The country must be peaceful, and the economy must remain strong."

Anwar said the Sara system was

now running smoothly after its launch last Sunday.

The system experienced glitches in the beginning, but all issues had been fixed, he said.

"From the seven or eight transactions I saw today (yesterday), the system is running smoothly.

"We have not received a single complaint in the past four to five days," he said during a visit to a supermarket yesterday.

On further improvements to the system, he said any new measures or related policies would be announced in the 2026 Budget.

He said the RM100 aid could also be redeemed at rural grocery stores and sundry shops, in addition to major supermarkets.

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