

'FAST-TRACK PROJECTS TO SPUR GROWTH'

Unnecessary delays in approval process may undermine development momentum, says PM

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THE government will fast-track approvals for projects that comply with all established rules and procedures to support the country's economic growth and boost investor confidence.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said unnecessary delays in the approval process should be avoided, as they could undermine development momentum and economic growth.

"If the rules and procedures are correct and a project can be approved within two months, it should be approved within two months.

"There is no reason to delay. This is a new Malaysia, a Malaysia that aims for better growth, and we cannot afford to procrastinate," he said here yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said efficient governance and rapid approvals were among the key factors to ensure development projects were implemented on schedule.

He added that this approach would ensure citizens could enjoy the benefits of development and an improved quality of life as

a result of expedited project implementation.

"Looking at the latest figures, our economic performance is strong. For example, growth in the region is impressive and the strength of the ringgit is very reassuring.

"We are also seeing investment figures at an all-time high. All these numbers are important to boost public confidence, including in Semenyih."

He acknowledged that weaknesses and challenges remained, but said the government had chosen a positive approach, continuing to address shortcomings collaboratively.

"Even though poverty still exists today, it has declined significantly and the Madani government is committed to tackling hardcore poverty."

Meanwhile, Anwar gave an assurance that any Malay reserve land acquired for development purposes in Semenyih would be replaced and such land would not be permanently lost in the name of infrastructure progress.

He said the federal government had received guarantees from the Selangor government that replacement land would be provided wherever Malay reserve land was affected by development projects.

"I do not compromise on Malay reserve land. If land has to be taken for development, such as

road construction, it must be replaced.

"This is the assurance from the Selangor menteri besar," he said at the launch of the Semenyih Public Infrastructure Development project here yesterday.

He said the initiative was specifically designed to accelerate development and improve the quality of life for residents, encompassing the construction of the Semenyih Bypass and the development of 100,000 Islamic burial plots, which required careful planning due to the involvement of reserve land.

"Projects like this, when resolved through compromise, contribute directly to the community.

"They often involve sensitive areas, including Malay reserve land.

"But I am grateful that, in the process, we have been able to address issues relat-

ed to burial grounds and development."

Anwar said the construction of burial plots was crucial due to a shortage of such facilities in Kuala Lumpur, with new locations required.

He said the estimated number of deaths in the next five years was expected to exceed 3,000 annually.

"This creates an urgent need to provide additional space, as existing facilities in the federal territory cannot cope."



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim