

KERATAN AKHBAR

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PUTRAJAYA: Budget 2023, set to be retabled on Feb 24, will take into account current economic challenges, while at the same time drive the country's growth and attract investments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar said the government is also taking into account the country's competitiveness, the

speed of business approvals as well as several new initiatives, including digitisation, sustainable consumption and production of natural resources in the downstream process.

"We are trailing behind (in those areas) compared with Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. As such, we must address these issues to ensure

that we remain competitive," he said at the Finance Ministry's monthly gathering yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Finance Ministers Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan and Steven Sim.

Anwar said the biggest challenge in drafting Budget 2023 is coming up with well-balanced policies that would attract investors while

protecting the people, especially the hard-core poor.

"Sometimes there is a slight clash of ideas and policies. This can be an example of how we can translate (the concept of) *Madani* into economic growth.

"We are focusing on the people, nobody should feel left out and uncared for" - Bernama