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'Pay hike when economy improves'

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PM: Increments for civil servants the priority after Malaysia's income gets better

PUTRAJAYA: The salary of civil servants will be revised after the country's income has improved, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said a raise in the civil servants' salary scheme would be the government's priority but as for now, the increment could not be implemented.

"During the winding-up of the debate on Budget 2023 in Parliament this Thursday, I will provide some positive developments in terms of national income, the actual amount of investment," he told the staff of the Prime Minister's Department at its monthly assembly here yesterday.

Anwar said that based on his observations, the government's machinery at the federal and state levels had acted swiftly in handling the flood situation in Johor.

And this, he added, has proven the credibility of civil servants in managing disasters without having to wait for instructions.

"This means there is awareness, especially among the civil servants, to carry out their duties sincerely and quickly," he said in a Bernama report while expressing hope that the momentum would be maintained in the eventuality of a flood disaster in Sarawak.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, has reminded those involved to expedite the implemen-



On the ground: Anwar speaking to civil servants at the PMO's monthly gathering in Dewan De' Seri Endon, Puspanitapuri in Putrajaya. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

tation of flood mitigation projects without having to wait for the 2023 Budget to be approved.

"There is no need to wait for the full approval of the allocation because part of the allocation has been approved last December. So just proceed, but follow the procedure," he added.

On Dec 20 last year, the govern-

ment approved a special allocation (Mini Budget) 2023 under the Consolidated Fund (Expenditure on Account) Act, which came into force on Jan 1, involving a sum of RM107,718,676,650 for operating expenditure.

Anwar also wanted the task of evaluation to be returned to civil servants and for dependence on

consultants to be reduced.

Based on his previous eight-year experience with the Finance Ministry (1990-1998), Anwar said he witnessed the competency of government officers in leading and steering projects, and where necessary, they were assisted by one or two consultants only.

"Under the current administra-

tion, I want the big task of making assessments to be returned to civil servants," he added.

On the success of the Minister of Finance Incorporated (MOF Inc) and 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) in reaching a settlement regarding their dispute with the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) and Aabar Investments PJS (Aabar PJS), Anwar attributed it to, among others, the efforts of civil servants, such as those at the Attorney General's Chambers and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

The settlement involved the Abu Dhabi state-owned IPIC and Aabar PJS agreeing to pay US\$1.8bil (RM8.06bil) to MOF Inc and 1MDB.

Anwar said he did not consider engaging private consultants and lawyers as unimportant, but the expertise and skills among members of the civil service also needed to be recognised.

"The capability and level of expertise among civil servants are there, and that needs to be utilised to restore the image of civil servants as the best in the country and the region," he added.

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