

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 03 MAC 2024
AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 2

PM: RM2B TO AID BUMI ENTREPRENEURS

PM: RM2B TO AID BUMI ENTREPRENEURS

Anwar also announces RM100 million for Mara wakaf fund, which will have king as patron

PUTRAJAYA

THE government is allocating RM2 billion to assist Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who made the announcement at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Bumiputera Economic Congress (KEB 2024) yesterday, said measures to aid Bumiputeras, namely, in entrepreneurship, Malay reserve properties, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and wakaf, would be implemented.

First, Anwar said he would entrust government-linked companies and government-linked investment companies with RM1 billion to aid Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

This, he said, was to create more Bumiputera enterprises like Aerodyne, Les Copaque, Animonsta and Khairul Aming.

"We should be proud of the success of Les Copaque and Animonsta in their endeavours.

"We must provide the necessary support, as seen in the recent advancements in digital technology exemplified by Khairul Aming," he said.

Second, Anwar said the government will also allocate another RM1 billion as microcredit funds to support Bumiputera entrepreneurs, including women, youths and veterans, as well as hawkers, gig workers and food-truck operators.

This will be carried out through development financial institutions like Bank Simpanan Nasional, Agrobank and TEKUN Nasional.

Addressing the issue of Malay reserved properties, which has been a recurring concern, including at the congress, Anwar said Pelaburan Hartanah Bhd and



Attendees at the Bumiputera Economic Congress listening to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's speech yesterday. BERNAMA PIC



Permodalan Nasional Bhd had been entrusted to lead and drive commercial development in Malay reserve properties.

Anwar said this initiative would proceed with the Madani housing scheme on Malay reserve land, targeting the development of 2500 affordable housing units immediately.

"The government has taken over Bandar Malaysia in the city centre, and I have decided that a portion of Bandar Malaysia's land, which is 20ha, will remain under Malay ownership as Malay reserve properties.

"This means that in strategic urban areas, we will designate areas as Malay-owned within one year.

"This total, and in strategic urban areas and new developments, will be increased to 80ha, with government land being designated as Malay reserve land in urban areas."

RM100 MILLION FOR MARA FUND

The government will also establish a Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) wakaf fund, with a seed allocation of RM100 million.

Anwar said the fund was tar-

geted to grow to RM1 billion in the next two years, which will be spearheaded by Mara and executed by Mara Education Foundation.

"The Mara Madani Endowment will benefit 70.1 per cent of Bumiputeras and cover education, welfare, health, entrepreneurship and transportation."

He said His Majesty, Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia had consented to become its patron.

"The progress of the Mara Madani Endowment will be regularly reported to the Conference of Rulers."

He said the government had agreed to extend tax incentives for stock-based wakaf initiatives, such as Wakaf Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd and Waqaf An-Nur under Johor Corporation.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and other leaders holding up documents containing the Bumiputera Economic Congress's resolutions. They are (from left) Dewan Negara president Datuk Mutang Tagal, Sarawak Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli, Mara chairman Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.