

Government welcomes input from academicians for Budget 2024



By [Audrey Dermawan](#) - August 5, 2023 @ 12:33pm



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim attends the 16th National Economic Conference in Penang. -NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

PRAI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim welcomes input, including criticism, from academicians in preparation for the 2024 Budget.

"I am okay. I have no problems (if there are criticisms). Don't worry if there are academicians who provide different views.

"I want us to work together as a team so that there will be a clear synergy between the institutions of higher learning and the government," he said in his keynote address at the 16th National Economic Conference here this morning.

Present was caretaker Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

Anwar also directed the ministries to rope in public and private institutions of higher learning to chart the way forward for the economy.

"This is a major, radical move. My instructions are very clear. I want all institutions of higher learning to be involved to ensure greater synergy.

"This has not fully happened. I want reports from all institutions of higher learning on their niche areas. There needs to be synergy."

Anwar said the Finance Ministry would start the tradition.

"We want to bring the economy back on track. To do that, there needs to be a clear direction and expertise.

"If we can expedite that, we can drive the economy and achieve six per cent growth in a short time. Besides that, national investment can also increase beyond expectations."

Anwar said the country's economic growth had been plateauing compared with other countries .

"We have to accept the fact that the country has been lagging for two decades, especially in terms of investments, the quality of education and economic growth.

"Despite starting out much earlier, we are very much behind compared with Vietnam, which started out later."

Anwar also touched on the importance of strong leadership and good governance.

"We have extraordinary potential. This is why the Madani Economy is a big paradigm shift."