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Anwar-women

JUSTICE TO ALL OBJECTIVE OF UNIFORM SYARIA, SAYS ANWAR

SHAH ALAM, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today launched this year's Women's Day here with the assurance that justice for all, irrespective of race, is the objective of standardised enforcement of Islamic laws nation-wide now underway.

By that he meant justice also for the womenfolk, whom the media had often projected as the victims in domestic conflicts, he said.

"This needs to be stressed. Because the very mention of Syariah court gives the perception among women as if an Islamic administration does not guarantee them justice," he said.

Anwar said an Islamic administration will be deemed as a fair one if it was fair to both men and women, Muslims or non-Muslims.

This, Anwar said, is the king-pin and the indisputable principle of Islamic administration.

He said contradictions, if any, should be dealt with wisely and not by adopting a confrontational approach.

"We know that most of our kadis and ulamas are responsible and will do their utmost to ensure justice for all," he said.

Anwar said the government was earnest in applying the Domestic Violence Act to ensure justice for all women.

To start with, he said, all parties including families and the enforcers need to have a clear and thorough understanding of the Act.

He said because of this it took sometime to have the Act passed since it involved sensitive issues pertaining to family harmony.

Anwar also said that he and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had discussed a proposed action plan for women's development mooted by National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail.

Anwar had listed down key points in the proposed plan that merited following up and said it was now awaiting to be tabled before the cabinet for its consideration.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, dispelled notions that allocation in the national budget for women's development was negligible.

He said this did not arise as funds for women were also incorporated in the allocations for education, health and rural development.

"In fact, as we all know female students perform far better than the boys. But this is not much a cause for joy because what is worrying is that the boys are also our children," he said.

This trend had prompted the education ministry and tertiary institutions to impress that male students should not lose out and be left behind by the girls.

Nonetheless, Anwar said, the government had to be fair in providing opportunities to qualified women to further their studies.

Anwar said the country has had an impressive record of the scholastic achievements of her women, a fact which other countries readily endorsed.

-- BERNAMA

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