

# Teo refutes claim PM and cabinet can't be criticised

NDY- 24/12/2022 Pg. 3

**JOHOR BARU:** It is not true that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the cabinet cannot be criticised.

Deputy Communications and Digital Minister Teo Nie Ching said the claim was untrue and unfounded.

She denied claims that anyone who criticised Anwar or the cabinet would face tough action, including having their social media accounts blocked and hauled to court.

Teo said she did not know how this perception came about.

"As the prime minister has stated before, he welcomes constructive criticism. He has never said that he, his ministers or deputy ministers cannot be criticised.

"We want to stress that the government does not want hate speech because it is important to uphold and defend harmony in society.

"The government does not want statements that break the law on the three R's of race, religion and royalty. This is the message from the prime minister. He does not want anyone to play up issues related to the three R's (race, religion and royalty)," she said after visiting the Johor Civil Defence Force's Disaster Operations Control Centre in Bandar Baru Uda.

Present was state Civil Defence Force director Kamal Mokhtar.

On Anwar taking legal action over certain matters, Teo, who is Kulai member of parliament, said that was his right as a citizen.

"I believe if a politician, even a prime minister or deputy min-

ister, feels that they have been slandered, they have a right to take the case to court. This is their choice and right as citizens of this country.

"Everyone has the right to take legal action if they are wronged or slandered."

Since taking his oath as prime minister on Nov 24, Anwar has sought legal action against three Perikatan Nasional leaders.

He took legal action against PN chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin for claiming that Anwar pocketed RM15 million during his time as Selangor economic adviser.

Anwar also initiated legal action against Perak Pas commissioner and Gunong Semanggol assemblyman Razman Zakaria for saying Anwar brought the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender agenda into the country and that he supported communism.

He also filed a suit against Pas' Kuala Terengganu member of parliament Datuk Ahmad Amzad Hashim for claiming he lied about receiving a salary of just RM1 when he was Selangor economic adviser.

Teo said no social media users have been taken to court for criticising the unity government.

Therefore, she said, claims that the government was too harsh on social media users who criticise the government were untrue.

"However, if social media users spread false information, then the government and relevant agencies can take action because we do not want to cause disharmony in the country."