

'NO SYMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO DISRESPECT RULERS'

You can criticise me all you want, but don't involve royal institution, says PM

KUALA PILAH

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has slammed those who used an edited video clip of Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah's speech for political advantage.

He said he would not be sympathetic to any party who disrespected the royal institution.

"We have a Constitution and we must abide by it. Don't look for trouble. I will not sympathise with those who disobey the authority of the rulers," he said.

Anwar said those who were dissatisfied with anything were free to criticise him, but they should not touch on the Malay rulers.

"You can insult the prime minister every day, to your heart's content... that is your right. I will not take action (if you do this), unless you seriously defame me.

"However, as soon as you touch the rulers, you are just asking for trouble," he said at the "Ceramah Jelajah Perpaduan" here on Monday night.

It was reported on Monday that the Sultan of Perak's Office had lodged a report over the viral clip.

Orang Kaya Bendahara Seri Maharaja General (Rtd) Tan Sri Dr

Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin had said the office lodged the report on Saturday to protect the good name of Sultan Nazrin from being tarnished by any party for political gain.

The video clip was said to show only a small part of a speech in 2013 on Pas, before Sultan Nazrin became the ruler of Perak.

He was seen as "expressing positive words" towards Pas in the clip, but Zahidi said Sultan Nazrin had also talked positively about Umno.

"His Majesty gave a balanced review between the two Malay political parties and also issued a warning to both parties that the passion for political support and power should not divide the nation and destroy the country," Zahidi said.

At least 20 police reports had been lodged by various quarters in Perak over the issue. The case is being handled by Bukit Aman.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Anwar, at the same event, said Malaysia's image was improving, and it was recognised on the world stage because of its good governance, strong policies and political stability, leading to more foreign investments.

He said this was, among others, proven when Tesla Inc chief executive officer Elon Musk decided to personally discuss with him the commitment to set up headquarters in Cyberjaya this year.

Anwar said this was a huge honour for Malaysia and the economic policies practised in the country, including the Madani economy, in addition to the trans-

parent leadership of the unity government.

"What is political stability for? I want to emphasise that it is for developing the economy and attracting investors.

"Previously, investors did not want to come (and) we saw that foreign dignitaries rarely came to our country. But now, just last week, the president of the Philippines, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, was here. For 49 years, (a Philippine president) did not visit, and even if they did, it was for some international conference," he said.

He said Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who is scheduled to visit Malaysia tomorrow to discuss investment opportunities, had also expressed his determination to improve Brunei-Malaysia ties.

On another matter, Anwar said he will chair a meeting on the proposed review of civil service salaries and pensions next week.

"However, according to Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, this might take at least six months. So, for the time being, I have approved a RM300 (special appreciation payment) for civil servants with an annual salary of RM100,000 and below and a RM100 e-wallet payment. So that makes it RM400.

"Retirees will get RM200 and another RM100 each, totalling RM300, and this includes non-pensionable army veterans who will also get RM200 each. But all these are just temporary measures. We will do what we can with the financial constraints that we are facing."