

# Nurture patriotism for united Malaysia, says PM

**IPOH:** The spirit of patriotism among Malaysians needs to be continuously nurtured to create a united society, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said it is also important to create a strong nation, which requires the strengthening of unity among those of various races, backgrounds and religions.

Anwar added that all Malaysians should take the opportunity to celebrate the National Month and fly the *Jalur Gemilang* and show their love for the country by participating in the various events organised.

"We are blessed to be part of a sovereign and independent Malaysia. Indeed, the blessing of independence should be appreciated as we can live comfortably, harmoniously and prosperously, with the practise of tolerance among the races," he said at the launch of the National Month and the Kibar Jalur Gemilang event at Sultan Azlan Shah Roundabout in Meru Raya yesterday.

The text of his speech was read

> Vital to create strong nation, which requires boosting solidarity among those of various races, backgrounds and religions'

by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who officiated at the event on his behalf.

Anwar said unity is a priceless blessing and an important asset to the country and needs to be maintained so that Malaysia's independence continues to be safeguarded.

He added that history has proven the greatness of an empire is not only based on wise leadership, but also on the spirit of identity and consensus among the people.

Anwar said the practise of the *Tabayyun* concept, which is to always check the authenticity of any information, is important before sharing it with other individuals.

He said the practice is relevant to ensure that the dissemination of information, especially on social

media, is carried out with prudence and integrity.

He also said the social media world, which is without borders, makes the sharing and dissemination of information possible in a matter of seconds.

"True and fake (information) are all mixed in the virtual world and this sometimes gives rise to the seeds of conflict that can threaten the peace and harmony of the lives of people of various races."

Anwar said practising the concept indirectly trains individuals to be more careful in drawing conclusions.

On another matter, he said the problems faced by people struggling daily with the increasing cost of living are now being dealt with comprehensively.

He added that the government has taken proactive steps through various initiatives to ensure that people's lives are at a comfortable level.

Anwar said all the initiatives by the government are carefully planned to ensure that nobody is left behind in enjoying prosperity, and people's welfare is protected, Bernama reported.

"These include the cost of living and Rahmah cash aid initiatives to ease the people's burden.

"The government is also taking steps to increase the income of the hardcore poor and B40 families, while at the same time trying to resolve daily economic problems through the People's Income Initiative."

"About 100,000 participants from hardcore poor and B40 households will be assisted through this initiative."

Fadillah also flagged off the Kembara Merdeka and Jalur Gemilang 2023 convoy, which will tour the country in conjunction with Merdeka month celebrations.