

'NO TOLERANCE OF MOCKERY OF ROYALS'

Govt will not allow monarchy to be insulted in the name of freedom, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR

THE government will not tolerate any mockery of the monarchy in the name of freedom, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the government would defend the institution and take action against any party that threatened the monarchy and the constitution.

"On behalf of every Malaysian and the cabinet, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Your Majesties for your concern about the people since ascending the throne.

"The institution must be upheld (and) protected.

"Hence, the government will not allow the royal institution to be mocked or disturbed in the name of freedom."

He said this in his speech to mark Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah's official



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering his speech at the celebration of the official birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah at Istana Negara yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

birthday celebration yesterday.

Anwar also thanked the king for giving him the mandate to form the unity government after the 15th General Election, adding that it had created political stability in the country.

He said political stability had contributed to the country's economic growth and increased domestic and foreign investments in the country.

"The unity government was established by Your Majesty's wisdom, which had strengthened unity and created political stability in the country.

"This also allowed the government to establish good and sustainable governance to ensure the comfort and wellbeing of the people.

"With the spirit of *Membangun Malaysia Madani*, the unity gov-

ernment will also continue to work diligently to drive growth and in defending humanitarian values."

He said the government was launching several policies to face global challenges.

He said these included the National Industrial Plan, to be launched in August; the mid-term review of the 12th Malaysia Plan at the end of September; and

the second Madani budget in October.

He said these policies were needed to deal with global challenges, including geopolitical struggles, war, economic slow-down and the climate and environmental crises.

"This big framework that will be launched will serve as a platform for good, transparent and responsible governance," he said.

Besides economic recovery, he said the unity government was also focused on addressing the cost-of-living issue, rising prices of goods, and food security, which had become a worldwide problem.

Malaysia, he said, would be more vocal on its stand and preserve the country's interests at international forums, particularly on issues of sovereignty, humanitarianism, security and disaster management.

He said Malaysia's gross domestic product had grown 5.6 per cent, involving a total investment of RM71.4 billion, during the first quarter of this year.

Anwar attributed this to the wise planning by the cabinet, civil servants and private sector.

He said the government, in line with the concept of Developing Malaysia Madani, was committed to working hard to ensure the country's growth, while upholding justice and noble values.