

# PM calls on current generation to uphold MA63

Country would be great with leaders open to tolerance and strength of diversity, says Anwar

**PENAMPANG:** It is the responsibility of the current generation to implement what is spelt out in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said as MA63 is an agreement and pledge signed by the country's previous leaders to establish a country called Malaysia, the present generation is duty-bound to implement MA63 faithfully and sincerely.

"I am not worried (about MA63) because since taking over the government, this unity government has been giving priority to, among other things, resolving problems which have plagued the country for decades. Each time I come to Sabah, I have never failed to hear about problems concerning the implementation of MA63.

"In only six months (after taking over the government), Alhamdulillah, with the

cooperation of Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor and state and federal teams, I asked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (to look into the issues) and almost all the problems have been amicably settled."

Anwar was speaking at the closing ceremony of Pesta Kaamatan 2023 at Dewan Hongkod Koisaan, Kadazan Dusun Cultural Association (KDCA) here yesterday.

Sabah Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin officiated at the closing ceremony.

Among those present were Hajiji, Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Seri Jeffrey Kitingan, who is also Pesta Kaamatan 2023 organising committee chairman, and KDCA president Tan Sri

Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

Anwar added that the unity government's Malaysia Madani policy is aimed at uplifting Sabah and Malaysia in various fields.

"Under Malaysia Madani, we want to make Sabah and Malaysia great, with a strong economy and high levels of education and technology, and also develop the country based on its own cultures and traditions."

He said Malaysia would be great if the people have leaders who adopt an open attitude, in regard to tolerance and appreciation of the strength and beauty of diversity.

Anwar added that the unity government was serious about convincing the people that they are now in a new phase of Malaysia, which would bring success to all the people.

He also announced an allocation of RM1 million for KDCA to implement its activities.

While extending Kaamatan Festival and Gawai Day greetings to the people of Sarawak and Sabah, he said efforts to provide an understanding of cultural diversity in the country must continue to be supported by the people to show love for the nation and strengthen racial harmony.

"I would like to express my appreciation to a group of Borneo people who recently marched in their traditional clothes in the capital to highlight and outline the culture of the Borneo community, which certainly forms an aspect of cultural diversity in Malaysia.

"*Kotobian Tadau Tagazo Do Kaamatan and Gayu Guru Gerai Nyamai* to the entire community of Sabah and Sarawak," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

The Kaamatan, or Harvest Festival, in Sabah is a month-long event for the Kadazan Dusun community, with the peak of the celebration falling on May 30 and 31, while Gawai Day will be celebrated today and tomorrow by the Dayak community in Sarawak.



Anwar flanked by Juhar (left) and Hajiji during the Pesta Kaamatan closing ceremony yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC