



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking during a press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are (from left) Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. BERNAMA PIC

SECURITY FORCES TO ACT

PM: BE ALERT TO RACIAL RELIGIOUS INCITEMENT

There will be no tolerance for any effort to disrupt national security, warns Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has instructed security forces to be on alert for possible unrest caused by quarters attempting to fan the flames of religious or racial conflict. He said there were efforts to incite such conflicts in the country. "Those who are desperate or feel challenged will use these sentiments and the poor will be paid to cause a ruckus. "If the attempts become extreme, security forces will be firm and will act accordingly. "If issues (on race and religion) arise, it should be resolved peacefully through talks," he said during a press conference here yesterday. He said Islam was the official religion of the country and the government was firm in uphold-

ing the freedom of religion enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

He said issues must be resolved amicably to prevent misunderstandings and prejudice.

He said the government had clear policies to work towards Malaysia Madani and in protecting the values, morals and spirit of unity of the country's multicultural and multi-religious people.

"Irresponsible proclamations cannot be entertained. We cannot run away from the fact that Malaysia, which was built by the Malays, Bumiputeras, Chinese, Indians, Dayaks, Iban Melanau, Kadazans and others, has to remain peaceful and orderly.

"The cabinet is united on this issue to ensure that peace among all races is defended. There will be no tolerance for any effort to disrupt national security."

Anwar's remarks came on the heels of several religion-related issues that have sparked unrest on social media.

Recently, the people involved in the making of the independent film *Mentega Terbang* were subjected to threats and abuse online after the Malaysian Islamic Development Department said the movie's content went against the principles of Islam.

In another incident, a poster by

Impact Malaysia, an agency under the Youth and Sports Ministry, inviting non-Christian Malaysians to join a Jom Ziarah programme at a church in Klang, Selangor, sparked controversy online.

Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh had denied that the programme was trying to promote other religions to Muslims.

On Monday, she lodged a police report through her aide against blogger Badrul Hisham Shaharin for allegedly linking the programme to Christian evangelism.

On Thursday, Pas' Kuala Langat member of parliament Ahmad Yunus Hairi courted controversy when he urged the government to prevent the building of non-Muslim houses of worship near mosques.

During a Parliament sitting, he cited the example of a Hindu temple in Canary Garden, Klang, that was built near a Malay settlement, which allegedly sparked protests.

He was slammed by Sarawak Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, who said such "extreme views" were "definitely not Islamic".

"Islam does not tell believers to hate or treat their non-Muslim neighbours this way," he was quoted as saying by news portal Free Malaysia Today.