

'Don't fan religious and racial issues'

PM: Avoid resorting to excessive acts, resolve animosity amicably

PUTRAJAYA: Any attempt to set the people against one another or raise the racial and religious "temperature" in the country will not be tolerated, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said he had directed security forces to monitor the situation closely to prevent people from creating trouble.

The unity government, he said, remains firm in defending the Federal Constitution which upholds Islam as the religion of the federation while giving space and freedom for other religions to be practised.

"If issues (on religion and race) arise, resolve them properly so there won't be any animosity, misunderstanding or prejudice," he told a press conference after chairing the Cabinet meeting here.

Cops monitoring for threats to security

KUALA LUMPUR: Bukit Aman has warned of strict action on those who issue statements touching on race and religious sensitivities.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani said they are monitoring the situation closely and will not hesitate to act

In recent days, there have been several issues over the *Mentega Terbang* movie, which saw death threats to cast members, and claims of conversions after an NGO organised visits to houses of worship.

It has been reported that there

against people who threaten security and public order.

"Rest assured that the current security level remains under control. We are committed to having continuous law enforcement.

"This is to ensure that the safety of all is guaranteed," he said in a statement yesterday.

will also be a "Malay Proclamation" rally tomorrow, with former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as one of the key speakers.

Saying that there were attempts by certain quarters to fan racial and religious sentiments, Anwar added

He advised the public against making or sharing statements that could threaten peace or cause public anxiety.

"Those who have any information on such acts can immediately go to the nearest police station to relay the information for further action," he said.

that no one should exploit these issues.

"If the actions become excessive and cause disturbances, the security authorities will act firmly," he said, according to Bernama.

Anwar said instances of breach of regulations which seemed to

touch on racial sensitivities should be settled properly through discussions, adding that the situation is under control.

He said his Malaysia Madani-oriented government has set a clear policy of defending good values and morals to unite the multiracial and multireligious population.

"So, irresponsible statements are not acceptable because we cannot deny the fact that Malaysia should be peaceful and orderly, developed by Malays and bumiputra, Chinese, Indians, the Dayak, Iban, Melanau and Kadazan ethnic groups and others," he added.

He said the Cabinet is together in this matter of ensuring that the peace and harmony enjoyed by all races is defended and that it will not tolerate any attempts to undermine national security.