

CURBING EXTREMISM

'SAVE COUNTRY FROM FANATICS'

It is the duty of all Muslims to counter false info regarding Islam, says PM

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MUSLIMS have the responsibility to counter any misinformation regarding Islam, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"By doing so, we can curb parties, including the Muslims, from exploiting the religion to the point of being fanatical and extreme.

"Save our country from the religious fanatics," he said when launching the Lestari Niaga programme @ Kuala Lumpur held at Medan Selera Madani, Kompleks Tun Sambanthan, here. The initiative aims to upgrade existing stall facilities for small traders and hawkers in the Federal Territory.

He cited the newly-introduced Imam Nawawi 40 hadith module for Muslim schoolchildren, which had received criticism from some quarters.

He said that instead of getting upset, critics should have sought clarification on the matter.

"I do not wish to apologise.

"I will ensure Muslim children

(fully) understand Islam, (practise) moderation, respect each other, do not discriminate based on one's skin colour and race."

Without naming any individual, Anwar said certain quarters were quick to pass judgement on those not aligned with their party. We want to stop polemics that are still being raised."

On another matter, Anwar said the freeze on the foreign worker intake for the barber, textile and goldsmith subsectors had been lifted.

He said the matter would be further discussed in the cabinet meeting on Friday.

"While we're looking at bringing in foreign workers, it (intake) should be reopened with conditions... Maybe (we should) approve half the number requested (by the industry).

"We must also look at training locals through TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) so that they could be employed in these sectors," he said.

Human Resources Minister V. Sivakumar said a cabinet memorandum had been prepared and would be presented during the meeting.

He said the subsectors needed about 15,000 foreign workers to address the labour shortage.

About 3,000 employers in the subsectors are affected by the freeze, with most of them small and medium-scale enterprises.