

Zero tolerance'

JOHOR BAHRU: The unity government will not tolerate any attempt to incite the people and cause division among the races, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He added that he was not afraid and was open to criticism, but inciting the public to create conflict in the country's multi-racial society was not acceptable.

"I do not agree that the Sedition Act should be used against those who criticise the prime minister and the government, but we will not tolerate anyone who tries to incite or slander to the point of touching on the 3R (race, religion and royalty) issue. Let the police take action.

"You can criticise anything and anyone but if

> Govt accepts criticism, but raising 3R issues and inciting hatred among races will draw full brunt of law: Anwar

you use sentiments, incite Malays to hate Chinese, incite people to use religion to accuse others of infidelity ... I stress that I will not tolerate it"

Anwar was speaking at the Madani Unity Mega Ceramah held in conjunction with the

Pulai parliamentary by-election at Taman Uda Utama in Perling on Sunday.

The event was also attended by Amanah president Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi and the PH candidate for the Pulai parliamentary seat

Suhaizan Kaiat.

Anwar, who is also PH chairman, said the people must reject parties that only play up the politics of hatred and extremism, adding that they rely on the sentiment that DAP is preventing the unity government from helping the people, especially the Malays, whereas DAP consistently supports all initiatives for the people, regardless of race.

"DAP is with PH. If DAP rejects the Federal Constitution, we (PH) will fight it (DAP). If it does not accept Islam as the federal religion, we will oppose it. But instead, they accept."

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Opposition envious of govt success: PM

Meanwhile, Anwar said the unity government would continue to govern the country based on the Madani Economy concept to safeguard the welfare of the people even if the initiatives introduced are rejected or belittled by the Opposition, Bernama reported.

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"Because we made these changes (policies and initiatives to help the people), they can't stand it. They want to say that we are not doing our work when they know we are doing it.

"They can continue to dream of taking over the federal government, at a time when the unity government continues to work to save the country and the people with the Madani Economy (framework)."

Anwar also said the unity government would continue to prevail for the full term based on the performance of the economy and the influx of new foreign investment.

He said the success achieved in over eight months since the formation of the unity government was the result of the focus and energy of all parties involved in the government

The by-elections for the Pulai parliamentary seat and Simpang Jeram state seats are being held following the death on July 23 of incumbent Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub, who was also Domestic Trade and Cost of Living minister.

The Election Commission has set the two by-elections to be held simultaneously, with early voting today, followed by polling day on Sept 9.