

PM: Policy of inclusivity not at expense of Malay interests

> 'Constitutional guarantees in place, no compromise on Rulers position, Bumiputera rights, Islam or Bahasa Melayu'

KUALA LUMPUR: Concerns among Malays that government policies were becoming more inclusive and tolerant of others, potentially sacrificing their interests, are clearly misplaced, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"The government and I through our formidable coalition partners have made it very clear that constitutional guarantees are in place, that the position of the Malay rulers, Malay and Bumiputera privileges, Islam as the religion of the federation and Bahasa Melayu will never be compromised.

"In fact under this government, for the first time, when we took back Bandar Malaysia (project) from a foreign entity, we made it clear that there is a minimum portion of 20ha preserved as a Malay reserve, the first time since independence.

"This instils confidence in me because not

only Malays but also non-Malays, including my Cabinet, understand that this position and government policy make it very clear that we are here to be fair, to consider every single Malaysian as one great member of one great family," he said in his speech at the Malay College Old Boys Association annual dinner on Saturday.

He said while the government supports affirmative action, it does not believe in discrimination.

Anwar also said previous implementations of affirmative action policies, such as the Bumiputera policy, were marred by nepotism and the policy was abused to enrich families and party leaders at the expense of the Malay community as a whole.

He added that despite this, he supports a modernised version of affirmative action that is more transparent and inclusive, ensuring

that: benefits are distributed more equitably to all Malays.

"That is why I believe we need to give this necessary message and exposure to the Malays, that even if we can preserve some elements of the economic policy, we cannot expect to succeed if we abandon the principle of inclusivity and transparency, and ensure that the policies benefit the vast majority of Malays, including the urban poor and those from rural areas."

Anwar highlighted the historical role of the Malay College as a provider of elite education, with ties to the colonial establishment and British values while maintaining its Malay identity, Bernama reported.

He said its tradition has not strayed from its roots, with its alumni making significant contributions to the nation's development while remaining true to Islam, Malay heritage and national values.

"This combination of tradition and modernity is critical as Malaysia faces 21st-century challenges such as digital transformation and energy transition."