

PM: GOVT RESOLUTE DESPITE HATE POLITICS

Pervasive nature of politicking will not deter govt from its goals, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed concern over the pervasive nature of hate politics in the country, describing it as “too strong”.

Despite this, Anwar gave his assurance that it would not deter the government from carrying out its duties.

“I tell you, it is not easy. The hate politics is too strong in this country,” he said at the Finance Ministry’s monthly assembly here yesterday.

“I don’t take a salary, I get insulted. When we are firm in our fight against corruption, I get insulted.

“I have a good relationship with Hamas, I get insulted, and on the BlackRock issue, I am accused of being an Israeli agent.”

Anwar said all the facts were being completely ignored and that hatred was being sown.

“But should it bother us? Not at all,” he said.

Anwar said he was also aware of the opposition’s campaign for the Sungai Bakap by-election, where he was labelled a “Jewish agent” and accused of “selling the country to China”.

“Sometimes, I respond to these (allegations), but often I don’t bother because we have more challenging tasks (for the country),” he said, adding that his announcement regarding the matriculation programme had also become a political issue.

Citing the government’s fight against corruption, Anwar said the effort received a lack of support from certain quarters, including opposition members of parliament.

“Many condemn these acts of corruption. Yet, everyone knows that there are certain cases where, for decades, billions of ringgit were collected within and outside the country, and no one dared to touch them.

“When we take action (against certain individuals), there is no



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Finance Ministry’s monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. Anwar says the government aims to realise the nation’s potential. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

support because of the extensive influence and funds involved.

“But we (the government) have no choice. We have been given the trust to ensure the prosperity of this country.”

Meanwhile, Anwar believed that Malaysia has high potential and was committed to ensuring that his government worked towards realising that potential.

“I represent an older generation and I have high aspirations for Malaysia. I am determined to continue my service to ensure a better future for the next generation and to uplift our country’s dignity.

“As someone from an older generation, I can only urge the younger generation to take action that will elevate us to a higher level.”

Anwar added that he would not retreat from fulfilling his responsibilities despite criticisms levelled against him and his government.

“Implementing targeted subsidies and combating corruption are crucial to strengthening the country’s economic foundation, especially after suffering from revenue leakages, misused or stolen funds.

“Through targeted subsidies and by eradicating corruption, the savings will be returned to the people.

“The subsidies did not reach the targeted groups. Regarding diesel, we know smuggling is rampant.

“We help fishermen, but there are those who sell the diesel to foreign fishermen.

“We know at petrol stations at the border, there is rampant purchase of subsidised goods for use

in other countries. Isn’t that concerning? Of course, it is concerning.”

Anwar also urged all enforcement departments across various ministries and government agencies to increase tax revenue collection in line with the country’s growing economy.

He said increasing the tax revenue was important to enable the implementation of public infrastructure development plans.

“This includes flood mitigation and clean water facilities, which need to be implemented according to schedule.

“Investors and tourists all want to come here. But, before that, we must ensure basic facilities are fixed. However, in some places, we still have problems with basic facilities.

“For example, access to clean water hasn’t been resolved in Kelantan, Penang, Perak, Kedah and Sabah.

“All of this involves high costs... flood mitigation costs billions of ringgit, and the same goes for clean water supply.

“Where will the funds come from? It must come from reasonable revenue (tax collection).”

Anwar expressed hope that enforcement agencies in the country would properly collect national revenue according to the law without taking shortcuts.

He added that should leakages persist, they would invite disaster to the country.

“For instance, we worked hard on implementing targeted diesel subsidies.

“However, in terms of enforcement, if leaks are still ongoing, it is unfair (for the people) and invites disaster to the country.”