

PM: King is country's pillar of strength

KUALA LUMPUR: The Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the pillar of strength for the country and its diverse people, ensuring equality and justice for all Malaysians under the constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the king also held the role of head of Islam, the federal religion, and held the responsibility of strengthening the position of the Malay language and defending the rights and privileges of the Malays and Bumiputeras.

He said the institution of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was the binding force of unity and solidarity and a beacon of kindness.

"The installation of His Majesty today (yesterday) marks a historical event that, God willing, will raise the dignity of the country.

"The government and the people pray to Allah to bless Their Majesties and their family with grace and guidance, that they remain strong on the throne and for good health," he said in his congratulatory address and pledge of loyalty to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim at his installation as the 17th king of Malaysia at Istana

Negara yesterday.

Anwar said His Majesty also played a role in ensuring close ties between Malaysia and Asean countries, Islamic countries and other nations.

He congratulated Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah for her installation as queen of Malaysia.

He also thanked former king Sultan of Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and former queen Tengku Ampuan Pahang Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah for their reign.

Anwar reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the wellbeing of the people.

He said his administration would continue with education and healthcare reforms, such as improving English proficiency and health infrastructure.

The government would also explore new fields like artificial intelligence, digital transformation and energy transition, he said.

"To bring about reform and transformation, the government will remain consistent in emphasising noble values, strengthening morals and reinforcing the national identity, while focusing on

enhancing love and loyalty to the Constitution and Rukun Negara.

"Thanks to the cooperation of all government agencies and departments, efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty will be realised by the end of the month. The government will continue to prioritise issues related to public housing and the cost of living."

He said under Sultan Ibrahim's rule, the government and the people would be able to weather global economic changes through sustainable initiatives.

He said firm measures under the Madani Economy framework led to an encouraging growth forecast of 5.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year compared with the same period last year, involving trade value of RM1.396 trillion.

"The value of new approved investments was RM83.7 billion for the first quarter of the year, 13 per cent higher than RM74.1 billion in the same quarter a year ago."

In a post on LinkedIn yesterday, Anwar said Malaysia's growth forecast of 5.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year exceeded estimates.

"The Statistics Department has forecast that our economy will



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presenting his congratulatory address and pledge of loyalty at the installation of the king at Istana Negara yesterday.

expand by 5.8 per cent in the second quarter of 2024. This is the highest growth Malaysia has seen since December 2022."

He believed the Madani government's hard work was starting to manifest.

He said the Madani Economy framework and major policies like the New Industrial Master Plan, New Energy Transition Roadmap and National Semiconductor Strategy were vital in attracting multibillion-dollar investments from world technology leaders.

"Investment pledges are becom-

ing real, shovels-in-the-ground projects that will provide new opportunities for our manufacturing industry overall, and particularly our electrical and electronics sector, to advance rapidly into higher value output. These projects will provide opportunities for higher paying jobs.

"I believe we are just at the start of sustainable, long-term economic advancement. Yet, while these numbers are encouraging and we should indeed take positive note of them, I am conscious too many Malaysians may still confront economic challenges."