

# PM: EVERYONE SHOULD FLY THE JALUR GEMILANG

Show that you are one with 'Spirit of Independence', says Anwar

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants all quarters, including those in the private sector, to fly the Jalur Gemilang on their premises to mark the National Month.

He said this would show the people's loyalty and sacrifice in upholding the spirit of the country's independence for the past 67 years.

"From today, the Madani community, every department, every citizen, restaurants and stalls, the poor, the rich and those in cities or rural areas must demonstrate that you are one with the 'Spirit of Independence' in glorifying Malaysia.

"(With this), I believe we can send a clear message about how difficult it was for the people back then, who had to sacrifice everything (to gain independence).

"This included our great grandmothers and mothers, who had to pawn their belongings to fund the struggle," he said at the launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign yesterday.

Present were Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Themed "Malaysia Madani: Jiwa Merdeka", Anwar said the National Day celebration this year must showcase the nation and people's pride in celebrating the month.

He said this year's celebration should serve as a new mark for the people to elevate Malaysia as a glorious country.

"We are not asking for (people to pawn their) rings or watches, like what was done by our an-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign in Cyberjaya yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

cestors (in the struggle to gain independence) What I am asking for is (for Malaysians) to fly the Jalur Gemilang. If there are those who refuse, send my regards to them.

"This is not an issue of race, party, position or occupation, but rather a matter of identity, dignity and self-worth. This is a nation that, upon gaining independence, should see the flag flown all across the country."

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Zuki Ali, he said, would monitor all government departments to ensure they flew the Jalur Gemilang.

"For the private sector, its contribution is significant and cannot be underestimated, but sometimes it considers the matter as trivial.

"(But) I want to tell them that if this country is not peaceful, their businesses will not be profitable.

"Without the sacrifices of the police and military at the borders, there would be no new investments. So, show your support and commitment."

Anwar also reminded the youth to understand the true meaning of the country's independence.

He said the people had given their blood, sweat, tears, and made sacrifices to achieve independence.

"But not all generations are asked to do the same. We are not asking for sacrifices of blood as that (security aspects of the country) has been delegated to the security forces at the borders and the seas.

"It also does not affect our lives in cities, villages, and rural areas.

"(And) this is why Malaysia Madani is meant to fulfil the 'Spirit of Independence' as there

is no meaning to independence if the leadership we choose is no different from colonisers who use power to plunder the country's wealth."

The National Day celebration this year will take place in Putrajaya for the second time under the Madani government, while Malaysia Day will be celebrated in Sabah.

This will be the sixth time the National Day celebration is hosted in Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Malaysia would decide on its next course of action following the recent International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling, which declared Israel's continued presence in the Palestinian territories illegal.

He said the cabinet, during its meeting on Wednesday, would decide on the steps to respond to the ICJ ruling against Israel.

"Malaysia undoubtedly supports the ICJ decision, which is based on clear facts regarding Israel's ongoing violence and brutality.

"Therefore, we will deliberate on proposals regarding the impact of this decision and at the cabinet meeting this Wednesday, we will make a final decision on the steps we will take to align with the ICJ's decision to condemn and act against Israel."

On Friday, the ICJ, which is the United Nations' top court, said Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian territories was illegal and needed to end as soon as possible.

Page 1 pic: People flying the national flag at the launch of the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang campaign in Cyberjaya yesterday.