

PM: No compromise on issues threatening national harmony

KUALA LUMPUR: Stern action according to the law must be taken against those who touch on matters that threaten the harmony of the country, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said no compromise can be allowed when it comes to racial and religious sensitivities.

"In the current scenario, there are matters that have to be handled according to the law and not some quarters taking action into their own hands.

"If there is a problem, including insults against a religion, there are existing laws to decide. Investigate the matter professionally, take action and charge swiftly.

"We will not tolerate any religion or race being insulted, what more Islam," Anwar said during his speech in conjunction with the 217th Police Day celebrations at the Police Training Centre here yesterday.

He also called on the police to take firm action to prevent unlawful practices from happening.

"I give full authority to the



Community effort: Anwar stirring bubur lambuk while attending the 'Program Gerak Rahmah: Jom Masak Bubur Lambuk Perpaduan Tahun 2024' at Dewan Orang Ramai Taman Meru, Ipoh. Also present are National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang (second from left) and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad (right). – Bernama

Inspector-General of Police and I will not interfere in any investigation matters. Instead, I will constantly urge not to compromise to save the country," he said.

Anwar said there is a due process to follow according to the law, adding that whenever a report is made, there are investigations, charges and an independent judi-

ciary process to follow.

"We should not act rashly. I don't care if the person is from a political party, civil society, notable figures or the general public.

"If the country does not follow the law, it will go downhill and make it harder for the country to expand," he said.

This comes following the controversy over socks bearing the word "Allah" being sold at local convenience store chain KK Super Mart.

Umno Youth chief Dr Muhamad Akmal Saleh called for a boycott of the chain when the socks were discovered several weeks ago.

KK Super Mart and socks vendor Xin Jian Chang Sdn Ehd have since apologised publicly for the incident.

An apology note has been put up at all electronic displays and cash registers at KK Super Mart outlets nationwide.

Touching on the issue in a speech he made at a break fast programme at Kolej Poly-Tech Mara in Meru Raya, Ipoh, yesterday, Anwar said people should

not harp on the socks case; they should allow due process to be carried out and then move on.

"Just let the police investigate, if there's wrongdoing, make the arrest and charge [in court], then let the judge decide and punish, and move on.

"We need to change our mindset, but all want to be warriors and fight daily.

"There's no need for us to be judge and executioner," he added.

The Star learnt that five people are expected to face charges at the Shah Alam Sessions Court today over the issue.

Of the five, two are from KK Super Mart while the remaining three are from the socks vendor.

"They will be facing charges under Section 109 and Section 298 of the Penal Code for abetment and wounding the religious feelings of others," sources told *The Star*.

Two individuals have also been charged for making insensitive comments on the matter on their social media accounts.