

Firm action against extremists lauded

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's determination to take stern action against extremists and agitators involved in recent violent incidents in the country reflects the government's seriousness in curbing such crimes.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Razak Faculty of Technology and Informatics Perdana Centre lecturer Assoc Prof Dr Mazlan Ali said extremists pose a threat due to their subversive ideologies that can endanger safety and disrupt public order.

"Even though these incidents are relatively isolated, they must be contained to prevent them from becoming widespread and normalised in society.

"When the government tightens security and ensures such activities are eradicated, our country will remain peaceful and the people will enjoy a more tranquil life in the future."

In a live address to the nation on Tuesday, Anwar said there have been attempts to disrupt peace in the country and its thriving economy and stressed that the government would take firm action against these groups.

Mazlan said Anwar's assurance that the situation would become calmer and more controlled boosts confidence that Malaysia is a safe country and indicates that recent incidents do not reflect the true state in Malaysia.

He said Malaysia has, in fact, received global recognition with its 19th ranking (out of 163 countries) in the Global Peace Index with a score of 1.513.

Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research Senior Fellow Prof Dr Azmi Hassan said the firmness and swift action of the police in handling recent incidents have assured the public of the country's safety.

He said although there were concerns regarding incidents such as those at the Ulu Tiram police station in Johor, the Istana Negara and the Dato Keramat police station in Penang, the government has clarified that these events are not linked.

"These three events are not connected to one another, so the government's response is commendable. They have not only taken firm action but also provided clear explanations to the public."

Azmi added that the incidents have not affected foreign tourist arrivals or the national economy, as the government is seen to have the situation under control.

He said this is why foreign governments like Singapore and the US have not issued any travel warnings to their citizens, as they viewed the incidents in Malaysia as isolated and not part of a larger plot - Bernama