

PM calls for unity, justice in Deepavali message

KUALA LUMPUR: In the spirit of Deepavali, Malaysians should work towards illuminating their lives with 'light' to replace 'darkness', said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said Deepavali conveys that life is more than just merriment; it is also about fighting for justice and a better future.

"All families of various races should come together, as we understand that the spirit of Deepavali symbolises the illumination of light to replace darkness.

"We know this celebration is intended to show that life is more than just food and drink or shared wellbeing...

"It is also about continuing the struggle for goodness, justice, and a better future.

"May the spirit of Deepavali provide an opportunity for Hindus and others in Malaysia to lead the country to a brighter and more radiant future."

He said this in his speech at the Madani Deepavali open house.

He called on Malaysians to inform the government of any weaknesses or shortcomings so that it can work on improve-

ments, moving from "darkness to light" in the spirit of Deepavali.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he was happy to see people of various races join in the celebration at Sentul Depot here.

"Light comes after darkness, and we, as a pluralistic society, celebrate Deepavali and other festivals together.

"However, this time, it is organised by the Digital Ministry on behalf of the government."

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said: "This is a positive event, and we can see many people coming together to celebrate in a harmonious atmosphere.

"This is the spirit of unity we wish to foster throughout the nation," he said.

"Let us take this opportunity to strengthen our bonds.

"Although we may have different religious beliefs, ideologies, and political views, we can unite as Malaysians. This is our strength."

Guests joined in the celebrations and enjoyed delicacies as early as 10am.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and ministers at the Madani Deepavali open house at Sentul Depot, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

Some of the dishes served included panipuri, laddu, cendol, sate and appam.

Several ministers and deputy ministers attended the open house.

They included Plantation and

Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Investment Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz and Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Transport Minister Anthony Loke and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir.