

Harness *Deepavali* spirit to make nation greater: PM

> Anwar highlights significance of Festival of Lights, which celebrates triumph of good over evil and goes beyond mere feasting

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed hope that the spirit of *Deepavali* can be harnessed to lead Malaysia towards greater prosperity and a brighter future while continuing the pursuit of goodness and justice.

Addressing thousands of people attending the 2024 *Madani Deepavali* Open House yesterday, he highlighted the history and significance of the Festival of Lights, which goes beyond mere feasting.

"We know the spirit of *Deepavali* is to illuminate light in the place of darkness. There is a history that

people should understand, showing that this celebration signifies that life is more than just eating and drinking.

"Hopefully, the spirit of *Deepavali* will allow the Hindu community and other friends to lead Malaysia towards a brighter light."

Present at the event were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, other ministers and deputy ministers.

Ahmad Zahid, in a post on his

Facebook page, expressed hope that this year's *Deepavali* would bring happiness and prosperity to all those celebrating.

"My family and I extend our heartfelt *Deepavali* wishes to all Hindu followers in Malaysia and beyond. This is the blessing of diversity that we cherish, woven together with a spirit of unity that nurtures tolerance and love.

"May this shared respect remain in our hearts forever and reflect the rich diversity of Malaysia, steering the country towards a more prosperous and harmonious future."

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof also shared his *Deepavali* wishes on his Facebook page, expressing hope that the celebration would be meaningful, cherished with loved ones and contribute to fostering harmony in the country.

"Happy *Deepavali* to all Hindu

followers, wherever you may be, especially in Malaysia. Let us strengthen our unity for our beloved Malaysia."

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail called on all Malaysians to strengthen bonds of friendship, embrace moderation and consistently promote harmony with one another.

"In a multicultural society like Malaysia, it is vital to have mutual respect and unity among different races to ensure our strength and prosperity as a nation.

"I wish for the light of *Deepavali* to bring joy, peace and prosperity to everyone. May we all be granted enduring well-being and happiness. *Deepavali Valthukkal!*"

Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said: "May this Festival of Lights be celebrated meaningfully with friends and beloved family members."

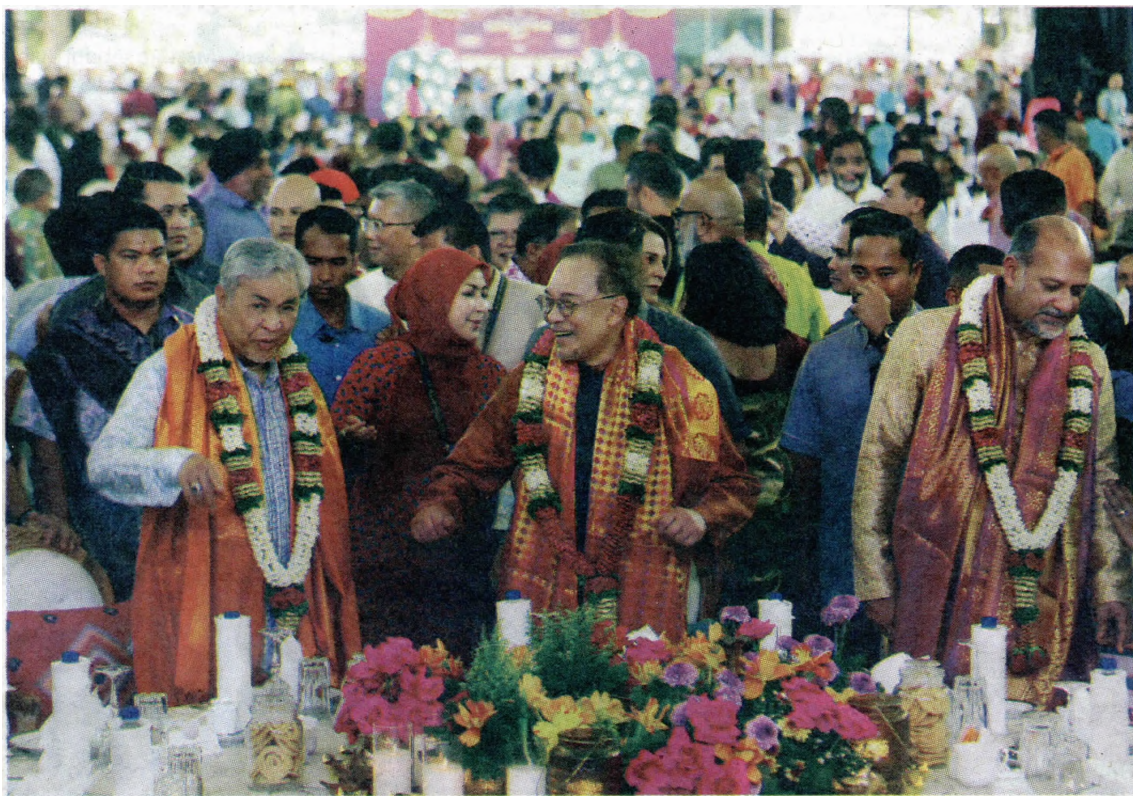
Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri in a post on her Facebook page said *Deepavali* is more than just a celebration and symbolises the strong unity among the nation's diverse communities, *Bernama* reported.

"Whenever this Festival of Lights comes around, we are reminded of the spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

"*Deepavali* also provides an opportunity to spend meaningful time with family, enjoy vibrant traditional dishes and share happiness in a harmonious setting. May the lights of *Deepavali* brighten every heart with wellness, joy and hope. Wishing everyone celebrating a Happy *Deepavali*."

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said also wished all Hindus in Malaysia, in a post on her Facebook page, a joyous *Deepavali*.

"Let's use this festive occasion to visit one another, regardless of ethnicity or belief, to strengthen the unity among our diverse community. *Deepavali Nal Valthukkal!*"



Anwar with Ahmad Zahid and Gobind Singh at the open house in Sentul yesterday. - ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN