

Anwar: Govt firm in implementing anti-terror laws

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants security laws to be implemented to tackle terrorism and extremism in the country.

He said the enforcement of such laws would prevent the spread of violence and terror attacks.

“That is why I think, if there is a need for a national security act that specifically aims to ensure domestic security, against external elements and influences, then so be it.

“I leave it to the police, military and other enforcement agencies to determine if there are elements that should be included which are not yet strong enough in our laws,” he said at the launch of the Malaysian Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (MyPCVE) here.

MyPCVE comprises four main pillars, which are prevention, enforcement, rehabilitation and strengthening.

Each pillar has a strategic focus that outlines initiatives to be implemented by all parties, including enforcement agencies, policymakers and implementers.

This involves collaborative efforts with civil society organisations such as academics, non-governmental organisations, research institutions and local communities.

All four pillars adopt an integrated approach that combines both soft and hard approaches.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

Anwar said such laws would likely face opposition from some quarters, but he gave his assurance that the government would be firm on the matter.

“Of course, there would be (those) who oppose this, but we will defend it.

“No matter how much we want this country to be mature... as a democracy, one thing we cannot accept is allowing the nation to become a platform for extremist groups.”

He also called for monitoring the issue of purveyors of violence and terror through schools, politics, departments and various groups.

He also defended the launch of MyPCVE, saying there was no partisan politics involved in these issues because the primary agenda was security and peace.