



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the state-level Madani Aidilfitri celebration at Stadium Indera Mulia in Ipoh on Friday. NSTP PIC BY L MANIMARAN

## GROWING CHALLENGES

# ANWAR: UNITY KEY TO MALAYSIA'S RESILIENCE

Diversity the driving force behind country's progress, says PM

ZAHRA TULHAYAT MAT ARIF  
KUALA LUMPUR  
zahratulhayat@nst.com.my

**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has emphasised that Malaysia's unity remains the cornerstone of the nation's resilience, especially in the face of growing global and domestic challenges.

The prime minister highlighted the strength found in the country's diversity, urging Malaysians to recognise that unity, not division, has been the driving force behind Malaysia's progress and stability.

"Earlier, I saw many visitors from various races and religions here.

"This is the beauty that sometimes we Malaysians take for granted as something normal, but this is the strength that builds our nation.

"Countries with diverse races and religions indeed face major

challenges. How can we manage these differences without creating tension and hostility?

"Hostility leads to disaster. Rarely do we see countries like Malaysia that can manage such diversity." He said this at the state-level Madani Aidilfitri celebration at Stadium Indera Mulia here on Friday.

The Tambun member of parliament reflected on Malaysia's journey to independence, acknowledging that the early years of nation-building were met with scepticism.

"International observers once doubted Malaysia's unity due to its complex racial and religious makeup

"Fragile due to cultural differences and strong racial sentiments.

"Many thought it wouldn't last, especially when the May 13 tragedy occurred.

"But thank God, since 1969, there have been no major racial tensions. And because of this, the nation today has risen in dignity and status as a strong country."

Anwar said, in terms of the economy, Malaysia has moved swiftly to open new trade channels in key global economies, including India, China, Brazil and South Africa.

"We've been aggressive in seek-

ing new markets. We're now trading more with countries like Brazil and South Africa, which are economic giants in their regions.

"Even our exports to Egypt have grown by 34 per cent in just one year. Proton, which previously struggled to break into foreign markets, has now managed to produce Proton vehicles in Egypt."

Despite economic optimism, he warned that Malaysia's future depends not just on numbers but on unity and clean governance.

"I want to stress that we must not be careless or take these matters lightly. We're talking about the digital age now.

"But instead, the conversation is about fear — fear of Christians, fear of the Chinese taking over, and DAP as a bogeyman — that never goes away.

"If our leadership has integrity, no one will dare disturb us.

"But if we're weak, corruptible, easily bought, intimidated, and anxious, there's no need for any ghosts.

"My hope and aspirations are sky high.

"I truly love this country, and when I look at the children, the people, their struggles and potential, I believe we can elevate the dignity of all races and all citizens."