



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the 20th Civil Service Premier Assembly (Majlis Amanat Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam) in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

ZERO TOLERANCE

ENOUGH OF BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, SAYS PM

Anwar tells enforcement chiefs to take action or be replaced

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there will be zero tolerance for bullying or any act of intimidation, incitement and racism.

He said enforcement agency leaders who failed to take action against such matters would be replaced with “braver and principled” individuals.

Speaking at the 20th Civil Service Premier Assembly (Majlis Amanat Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam) yesterday, Anwar referred to a number of issues, such as the death of Sabahan teen Zara Qairina Mahathir and the incorrect use of the Jalur Gemilang.

Such issues, he said, had been used by certain quarters to inflame political sentiments and demean others without relying

on facts.

“The act of bullying, demeaning people based on their race, lineage or skin colour, must be brought to an end.

“The mandate has been given by the cabinet, and I wish to make it clear — from the matter of Zara Qairina’s death in Sabah to the issue of the Jalur Gemilang, which we must all honour and protect — that these should not be used to inflame the political climate, to criticise, insult, berate or punish without regard for rights or conscience.

“I am giving a clear instruction to enforcement agencies. Whenever there is any offender, be it a prominent or minor figure, a politician, or even a member of the public who is clearly involved in the crime of making threats or inciting unrest, I say this: enough.

“What I’m saying today is neither a warning nor a reprimand, but to safeguard the nation; firm and decisive action must be taken.

“If those entrusted with the responsibility are not ready (to act), then tell me. We will replace them with those who are principled and dare to act,” he said.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad

Zahid Hamidi and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, as well as ministers, including Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Director-General of Public Service Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz also attended.

Zara Qairina, a 13-year-old student of a religious school in Sabah, was found unconscious near her school dormitory on July 16, and died in hospital the following day.

Her death, initially classified as sudden death, has since become a high-profile case amid allegations of bullying prior to her death.

Police have established a special task force from Bukit Aman to investigate the case, with a focus on potential criminal elements, including bullying.

Her remains were exhumed last week to enable a post-mortem to be conducted.

The Attorney-General’s Chambers has also ordered an inquest to determine the cause and circumstances of her death.

Police are also investigating 15 cases of the dissemination of false news over the girl’s death.