

# PM: Act against rabble-rousers

## Divisive actors to be dealt with firmly regardless of status

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**PUTRAJAYA:** All threats to national security, whether driven by racism, religious bigotry or political opportunism, will not be tolerated, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Extreme attitudes and arrogance as well as discriminatory behaviour based on race, lineage or skin colour, must be stopped immediately, the Prime Minister declared, adding that he has directed government agencies to take firm action.

"I have given clear instructions to enforcement bodies: if there are any elements - whether prominent figures, politicians, community leaders or ordinary citizens - engaged in threats or incitement, take action.

"The country's safety and peace must be preserved, regardless of race, religion, wealth or status."

Recent incidents, including cases of racial and religious tensions, bullying in schools and workplaces, and the deaths of students, have all been worrying.

These instances, he said, must be properly addressed by enforce-

ment bodies, educators, parents and the public.

"This is not something that can be solved through policy announcements or enforcement alone.

"It must come from the people's awareness that we are building a nation with strong economic growth alongside high moral values," Anwar said in his speech at the 20th Civil Service Premier Assembly here yesterday.

Citing as examples the death of schoolgirl Zara Qairina Mahathir in Sabah and the improper handling of the national flag, he warned against exploiting such issues to inflame political sentiments.

Anwar also underscored the need for investigations to be conducted promptly, transparently and fairly, without public pre-judgment.

"If you follow the law and are willing to act, you can keep your position.

"if you can't, we will replace you with someone principled and courageous.

"This is not a popularity contest. This is about saving the nation," he added.



**Lauding good governance:** Anwar (centre), with other Cabinet members and civil servants waving the Jalur Gemilang after the 20th Civil Service Premier Assembly at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre. - Bernama

The Prime Minister warned against both the "tyranny of the majority" and the "tyranny of the minority," reiterating his government's policy of zero tolerance of racism and religious bigotry.

He said Malaysia's reputation as a peaceful nation capable of contributing to regional and international peace efforts depends on upholding justice and the rule of law.