

STABILISING FORCE

PM lauds 'peaceful Malaysia' despite complexity

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia remains one of the most peaceful countries in the world despite its complex racial, religious and regional diversity.

He said the country's ability to manage diversity has strengthened international confidence and positioned Malaysia as a stabilising force in the region.

"Whatever said and done, this country, despite its complexity in terms of regional aspirations as well as racial and religious diversity, is certainly one of the most peaceful countries in the world," he said at the Christmas High Tea reception organised by the Christian Federation of Malaysia here yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusoff was present.

Anwar said Malaysia's peaceful record was a key reason the country continued to be viewed pos-

itively by its neighbours and the wider international community.

He added that this was reflected in the trust placed by regional and international leaders in Malaysia's role in easing conflicts and promoting dialogue.

Anwar said neighbouring countries, including Cambodia and Thailand, had placed their trust in Malaysia to help facilitate dialogue and ease tensions.

On a separate matter, Anwar said a cabinet reshuffle would be carried out to fill vacant posts soon but did not specify when the

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Prime minister

announcement would be made.

The cabinet currently has four vacant posts following the resignations of Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad and Datuk Ewon Benedick.

The vacancies increased after Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz's tenure as investment, trade and industry minister ended with his senatorship.

Anwar had previously said a list had

been prepared for the forthcoming reshuffle but stressed that he would not rush the announcement. **Bernama**