



Prime Minister
Datuk Seri
Anwar Ibrahim
inspecting the
restored Seri
Negara building
in Kuala Lumpur
yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

SERI NEGARA RESTORATION

‘HERITAGE PRESERVED FOR NATIONAL IDENTITY’

Such sites that reflect nation's history must not become exclusive spaces, says PM

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PRESERVING Malaysia's heritage is not about nostalgia but about strengthening the national identity and values for future generations, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of Seri Negara following its restoration under Khazanah Nasional Bhd, Anwar described the project as a bold statement of national identity and pride.

Seri Negara, he said, once embodied colonial power, but its restoration now has a new significance as a space reflecting Malaysia's values, history and aspirations.

“Malaysia's independence is only meaningful when its heritage is reclaimed. For too long, these buildings stood as symbols of colonial authority and elitism.

“Independence is not only about governance, it is also about freeing the mind, spirit and identity of the people,” he said.

Present at the ceremony were Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Khazanah

managing director Datuk Amirul Feisal Wan Zahir, Tunku Besar Seri Menanti Tunku Ali Redhaudin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Fadlun Mak Ujud, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

The prime minister said heritage sites must not become exclusive spaces for the elite, but should serve as platforms for public engagement, learning and cultural expression.

The concept of Malaysia Madani, he added, emphasised inclusivity, where heritage spaces were preserved with professional care yet remain accessible to all segments of society.

“For the first time, we are witnessing a heritage building restored with such attention and then returned to the people. This is what gives it meaning.”

Anwar said it was important to educate younger generations on the nation's history, to foster appreciation for independence and strengthen their sense of respon-

sibility towards the country.

“This space must belong to the people — schoolchildren, young Malaysians and ordinary citizens — so they can understand that independence came at a cost of sacrifice, struggle, sweat and tears,” he said.

Khazanah has been tasked with preserving and restoring eight historic buildings at a cost of RM600 million.

Seri Negara is among 10 flagship pilot projects under the Warisan KL initiative, aimed at transforming Kuala Lumpur into a vibrant cultural and creative hub, guided by the Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040.

The restoration of Seri Negara, which was completed ahead of schedule, preserved the building's character while enhancing safety, accessibility and public facilities, allowing more Malaysians to reconnect with a key chapter of the nation's past.

Other projects include Carcosa and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building complex, with the latter expected to be launched by the end of January.

His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, the King of Malaysia is expected to open the restored Sultan Abdul Samad Building complex.