

# PM: CHERISH TUNKU'S LEGACY OF UNITY

**Anwar pays tribute to first PM's role; Perak MB says there is no growth without stability**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim paid tribute to the legacy of the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, not only as the Father of Independence but also as a figure who brought Malaysia's communities together under a shared national identity.

In a Facebook post marking the anniversary of Tunku's birth, Anwar emphasised the first prime minister's role in fostering national harmony, and his commitment to peace and stability.

"As we navigate the path of Malaysia Madani, I remain steadfast in upholding the values championed by Tunku, including unity, integrity and justice for all. I am determined to continue his struggle in building a more prosperous and inclusive nation," he said.

Anwar said Tunku's contributions would guide Malaysia's cohesion and stability, and urged the nation to draw inspiration from Tunku's legacy to build a better future.

Tunku Abdul Rahman was born on Feb 8, 1903, in Kedah. He played a pivotal role in negotiating Malaysia's transition from British rule to independence and served as prime minister from 1957 to 1970.

Speaking before flagging off the Malaysia Sarong Music Run here later yesterday, Anwar called on Malaysians to protect the country's harmony and peace.

"Let us pray for everyone's safety, for the country's safety, for the wellbeing of the people, and for a strong economy.

"And let us not allow others to be a threat to the peace of our nation," he said.

After a brief speech, Anwar joined participants in a 3km walk.

About 10,500 people joined the run in a celebration of culture,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 17, 1984. NSTP FILE PIC

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim joining the Malaysia Sarong Music Run in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, NSTP PIC  
BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN



heritage and an active lifestyle.

In Ipoh, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad stressed the importance of unity and harmony in his address at the state Chinese New Year celebration at Stadium Indera Mulia yesterday.

The event, graced by Sultan of Perak Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, was also attended by Raja Muda of Perak Raja Jaafar Raja Muda Musa; Raja Di Hilir of Perak Raja Iskandar Dzurkarnain Sultan Idris Shah and other dignitaries.

Thousands of attendees enjoyed an array of dishes, as well as a lion dance and musical performances.

The royal couple participated in the tossing of yee sang, symbolising prosperity and good fortune.

Saarani, in his address, explained the significance of the Year of the Wood Snake in the lunar calendar.

He said the snake represented wisdom in decision-making and strategic planning, and the wood element signified growth, harmony and balance.

"As we welcome this new year,

let us embrace the call for self-improvement, unlock our potential, and strengthen our identity so that, as citizens who cherish peace, we remain determined to channel our efforts toward building a prosperous state where people are united.

"We must believe that the progress of a state and a nation cannot be separated from unity and harmony.

"A sustainable economy cannot thrive without social cohesion, especially in a state built upon religious, racial and cultural diversity."

He warned against the spread of political propaganda that undermined Malaysia's multiracial society.

"On this joyful occasion, let us reaffirm our commitment to unity, reject divisive rhetoric and continue to build a harmonious and united state and nation," he said.

Sultan Nazrin and Tuanku Zara presented ang pow to 68 orphans.

Page 1 pic: A father and son from Kuala Lumpur being greeted by a lion dance at Kota Kinabalu International Airport recently.