

PM BLASTS THE IGNORANT

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‘Those who lived through Reformasi era understand judiciary must be independent’

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has criticised people who display ignorance of Malaysia’s political history when commenting on the judiciary.

Anwar, who is also PKR president, said those who lived through the Reformasi era understood that the judiciary must stand as a cornerstone of the nation — independent and free from political interference.

He referenced the work of cartoonist Zulkiflee S.M. Anwar Uhaque, better known as Zunar, that documented the outrage during that period over corruption, abuse of power and politically influenced court decisions.

“Sometimes, when people speak about the judiciary, they know nothing at all about history or people who were once complicit in the very oppression and injustice they now pretend to speak out against.”

“But, for those of us who lived through it, we firmly believe the key lesson is this: the judiciary, as the nation’s primary pillar, must remain independent. Political interference only leads to the per-

secution of the innocent. And we have witnessed this first-hand.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the launch of a book by cartoonist Zulkiflee S.M. Anwar Uhaque (second from right), better known as Zunar, in Shah Alam yesterday. With them are Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (left) and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari. BERNAMA PIC

secution of the innocent. And we have witnessed this first-hand.

“The same is true in economic affairs, such as the Scorpene and 1MDB scandals, which were captured in Zunar’s cartoons,” he said during the launch of *Melukis Dengan Hati: Biografi Perjalanan Seni 50 Tahun*, a book chronicling Zunar’s 50-year artistic journey.

Anwar said Zunar’s work was significant not only for documenting history, but also as a powerful reminder of the lessons Malaysia must heed to avoid past mistakes.

“To save the country, there must be a clear separation of powers and shared accountability.

“While we may assume the judiciary to be a noble institution, history shows that it has, at times, been tarnished by corruption and abuse of power.

“In the same way, positions such as prime minister or finance minister, though entrusted to individuals believed to serve with integrity, have, in practice, been exploited to amass excessive wealth.

“And all of this is reflected in Zunar’s work,” he said.

PM to make big announcement at 10.30am

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is expected to make his highly anticipated announcement at 10.30am today.

“*Insyallah*, tomorrow (today) I will announce the promised gesture of appreciation as a sign of the Madani government’s concern for Malaysians who have stood firm with us through every step of the reform journey,” he said in a Facebook post yesterday.

“May this announcement bring benefits to the majority of the people and serve as a reflection of our collective efforts to build a fairer and more prosperous future.”

Previously, he said it would be related to the government’s efforts to help the people cope with the rising cost of living.