

PM THANKS AGENCIES FOR SMOOTH RALLY

NEW STRAITS TIMES 27 JUL 2025 m/s: 7

Criticism and differing opinions part of democracy, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim thanked the police, Fire and Rescue Department, emergency medical services and volunteers for their discipline and dedication in ensuring that the opposition-led rally in the city yesterday went smoothly.

He also extended his best wishes to rally participants and hoped they had a safe journey home.

"As prime minister, I remain

consistent in upholding democratic principles, namely on the freedom of expression and freedom to criticise.

"Criticism and differences of opinions should not be viewed through the lenses of enmity, but should serve as the pulse of a nation that is mature, progressive and sovereign.

"Most importantly, it has to proceed in an orderly manner, peacefully and in the spirit of loving the country," he said in a social media post yesterday.

Anwar said these principles were upheld in the Prime Minister's Question Time (PMQT) in Parliament, where members of parliament were free to ask the prime minister anything.

"I hope that you will all continue to urge all MPs to attend (the Dewan Rakyat sitting) and

participate in all sessions, including the PMQT.

"I invite everyone to continue to engage in dialogue, find common ground and build the country together, not just on the streets but also in other areas so that the country can progress solidly and spiritedly," he said.

The prime minister also invited rally-goers from other states to return to Kuala Lumpur in the future and experience its sights and sounds.

He said historic areas in the city, such as the Sultan Abdul Samad Building near Dataran Merdeka, were being rejuvenated.

"This is done in the hopes of boosting tourism and supporting the city's economy, especially with Visit Malaysia 2026 just around the corner," he said.