



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim performing Friday prayers at Masjid Teras Jernang in Bandar Baru Bangi yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

**'DON'T EXPLOIT ISSUES'**

# 'STOP ABUSING RELIGION FOR PERSONAL GAIN'

It will only deepen divisions and harm national unity, PM reminds political parties

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday warned political parties not to weaponise religious issues for personal gain.

Speaking after Friday prayers in Bandar Baru Bangi, he cautioned that continuing to exploit religious issues would only deepen divisions and harm national unity.

"Since today is a blessed Friday in the holy month of Ramadan, I would like to share some thoughts and advice with the people.

"When it comes to key issues concerning race and religion, we must follow the right path, as

rules and laws exist for a reason.

"Anyone who violates them will be subject to the law.

"I urge leaders of political parties and communities not to exploit these issues for personal gain as it will cause division and harm."

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar and Bangi member of parliament Syahredzan Johan.

Anwar said the government would take firm action against any act that insults or demeans human dignity and religion.

"Insults or actions that demean human dignity and religion must not be tolerated, especially in our multiracial and multi-religious country.

"Islam is the religion of the federation and we uphold this while ensuring harmony among all.

"Hence, my advice is clear. Do

not weaponise this issue for political purposes as it will ultimately backfire."

On Thursday, Anwar dismissed claims of bias in law enforcement, insisting that all cases of religious mockery were investigated and prosecuted.

He refuted claims that the government had remained silent when Islam was targeted.

In Kelantan, Pas vice-president Datuk Mohd Amar Abdullah said those who exploit religion do not uphold the principles of Islam.

The former Kelantan menteri besar said Pas leaders do not exploit religion for personal gain, as they were bound by the party's constitution.

"Pas' references are the Quran, Sunnah, *Ijma'* (consensus) and *Qiyas* (analogy). People who exploit religion do not adhere to the principles of Islam," said the Pan-chor assemblyman.

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**PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM**