

PM: Always put national unity first

Uphold the law and don't use issues for personal gain, politicians reminded

BANGI: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has warned politicians against weaponising religion for personal gain.

The Prime Minister said such practices, if not stopped, could lead to racial division and harm national unity.

"When it comes to race and religion, we must constantly be guided. Our actions must not be against the law.

"Those who violate the law will have to face consequences.

Therefore, leaders of political parties or communities must not use these issues for personal gain.

"If we continue to do so, it will be destructive," he told reporters after performing Friday prayers at the Teras Jernang Mosque yesterday.

The warning comes amid the circulation of provocative statements, insults and mockery of religion on social media, involving various segments of society, including politicians.

Anwar said any party wishing to express their views should do so through proper channels in accordance with existing laws.

The Prime Minister added that action will be taken against anyone who insults a religion as such acts could disrupt unity and harmony in Malaysia's multiracial and multi-religious society.

"The government's stance is firm. There is no place for insults against human dignity and religion, especially in our country.

"Such acts will not be tolerated, especially in our multiracial and multi-religious country," he said, Bernama reported.

"Islam is the religion of the Federation. We uphold its status while safeguarding harmony among the people."

In the Prime Minister's Office daily briefing on Thursday, he reminded all parties not to exploit racial sentiments or incite hatred.

The Prime Minister said he is aware of malicious attempts by

certain groups to create the perception of "double standards" in enforcement actions.

He described claims and perceptions that the government remains silent when Islam is insulted as pure slander.