

# PM issues stern warning against those inciting racial discord

**PETALING JAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday warned the people against inciting racial sentiments and sowing seeds of hatred in the country.

Speaking at the Prime Minister's Office daily briefing, Anwar's senior press secretary Tunku Nashrul Abaidah said the prime minister is aware that there are malicious efforts by several vested parties who are trying to instil a perception of "double standards" when authorities take action.

"This is a wild accusation that has no basis whatsoever. Anyone who insults any religion in Malaysia will be investigated and prosecuted."

Nashrul highlighted several recent cases which saw authorities take decisive action, including in the KK Mart socks and Allah case where the company and the supplier were each fined RM60,000.

He also cited cases where a man who mocked the word "Allah" was fined RM12,000 and jailed for six months, a sweetcorn vendor who put up a racist notice was fined RM400, and comedian Harith Iskander and Cecelia Yap were each fined RM10,000 for hurting religious sentiments.

He said allegations and perception that the government is silent when Islam is insulted are slanderous and baseless.

"In all the cases, it is clear that all of them were investigated, charged and punished, and all of these actions were taken based on existing legal provisions. Each case that is reported will go through due process and legal channels.

"This is a strong message to all Malaysians to stop the habit of insulting any religion, culture and race, in any space in Malaysia. Don't let trivial matters destroy our strength and uniqueness when the country is developing and on a good trajectory."

Astro Audio recently suspended three of its radio announcers after a video of them allegedly mocking the *Thaipusam kavadi* ritual was widely circulated on social media.





**ALL EARS...** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi visiting a booth at an exhibition held at the Finance Ministry in conjunction with the National Financial Council meeting in Putrajaya yesterday. - *BERNAMAPIC*