

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Remain vigilant and continue to strive for excellence, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia should not become too comfortable with its achievements, but instead remain vigilant and continue striving for excellence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said yesterday.

Anwar said that while the country's growing regional and global recognition was something to be grateful for, Malaysians must guard against complacency and internal weaknesses that could threaten stability.

"Do not be too comfortable with success. Be grateful, but gratitude must come with vigilance.

"History shows that no nation can endure once it is consumed by complacency and internal decay. Our responsibility is to remain aware, united and committed to improving ourselves and the nation."

He said this at the Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly here.

Anwar reminded civil servants that all positions, from unit heads to ministers and even the prime minister himself, were

temporary trusts to be carried out with integrity and humility.

"In life and leadership, nothing is permanent. Some prime ministers served a few months, others for years, but the message remains — we must always remember that leadership is an amanah (trust)," he said.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said leaders and citizens alike must "rise from heedlessness" and strive for self-purification and excellence in their work.

Meanwhile, Anwar appeared surprised by speculation over former Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin's comeback.

Asked whether Khairy would return to the cabinet, Anwar smiled and replied: "Really? Who told you?"

On Nov 7, Khairy remained tight-lipped when asked whether he had applied to rejoin Umno, saying the matter would be disclosed in due time.

On Oct 30, a source said Khairy was expected to rejoin Umno ahead of the Sabah General Election.