



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, attending the 2025 Madani Deepavali Open House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are Deputy Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan (front row, second from left), Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo (front row, third from left) and Deputy National Unity Minister K. Saraswathy (front row, second from right), NSTP PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

'REJECT EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES'

PM: BE VIGILANT IN UPHOLDING UNITY

Anwar calls on Malaysians to safeguard nation's harmony, avoid divisive narratives

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on Malaysians to reject extremist ideologies and uphold the spirit of unity that defines the nation.

He expressed concern about developments in Europe and the United States, where far-right groups have increasingly targeted minorities and foreigners.

He also called on Malaysia's multiracial population to protect the country's harmony amid its racial and religious diversity, warning against divisive narratives and the misuse of racial rhetoric by opposition parties and certain media outlets.

"When it comes to peace, what we have in Malaysia is unique. We think it's normal, but outsiders see it as extraordinary.

"This is the experience we've built, and we must guard it. This is what we have been fighting for," he said at the Madani Deepavali Open House here.

Anwar said democracy meant little without enlightenment, as ignorance and hatred could easily divide societies.

He said that Malaysians must remain vigilant to ensure that such hatred did not take root at home.

"Recently, I met with media and social media influencers. I told them: don't let hatred divide us. Yes, poverty exists in Kelantan, where most are Malays, and in Sentul or Klang, where most are Indians.

"But we don't discriminate. If you fall under the poor category, regardless of race, we will help. That is the principle of a government that serves everyone," he said.

Highlighting the government's inclusive policies, Anwar said the Madani administration had channelled significantly more aid to the rakyat than previous governments, including those led by Pas and Bersatu under Perikatan Nasional.

He cited the RM1.2 billion in housing loans disbursed to the Indian community last year — far surpassing the RM100 million allocation under the Malaysian Indian Transformation Unit (Mitra) that had often dominated public discourse.

"Next year, allocations will rise further, with RM1.6 billion for housing loans and RM600 million for insurance schemes, particularly to support youths," he said.

Anwar also pointed to the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) and Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) schemes, which together provided RM1 billion in aid to underprivileged Indian families.

"So, how can anyone say we don't care?" he asked, adding that in cabinet discussions, assistance

was never divided along racial lines.

"For STR, we don't say it's for Indians, Malays or Chinese — it's for everyone. But when we're constantly attacked, I have to clarify the facts," he said.

Anwar said the government had also addressed long-standing issues faced by Indian students, including access to universities and scholarships.

"This year, we've added 1,504 more places for Indian students, without affecting the Malay quota," he said, adding that Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) graduates of all races now had greater access to programmes in accountancy, engineering, medicine, digital technology and languages.

"Is this enough? Not yet. Reform means continuous improvement," he said, adding that the government was still recovering from years of corruption that had drained public funds.

"Tens of billions of ringgit were stolen by the powerful. Now, in just two years, we've recovered RM15.5 billion," he said.

The Madani Deepavali Open House, organised by the Digital Ministry and the National Unity Ministry, drew around 5,000 visitors to Jalan Tun Sambanthan, in the heart of the capital's Indian community.

Present were Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Deputy National Unity Minister K. Saraswathy and Deputy Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Seri R. Ramanan.