

Govt stays the course until GE1

Opposition rifts aside, economy and welfare first

By SHYAFIQ DZULKIFLI
newsdesk@thestar.com.m

PETALING JAYA: The unity government remains intact and stable, and it will continue to focus on ensuring sustainable economic growth and the people's well-being, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister added all parties in the unity government are committed to working on these aspects until the 16th General Election.

The government, he said, will not be affected by talk of the revival of Muafakat Nasional or the issue affecting PAS and Bersatu.

He added that discussions about the potential revival of Muafakat Nasional were still in the early stages and that he had not received any information regarding its status.

"The important thing now is that the unity government remains intact. Everyone has pledged to focus on economic growth and the welfare of the people until the next general election," he told reporters after performing Friday prayers at Jumphariah Mosque in Taman Datuk Harun here yesterday.

Anwar, who is Pakatan



Among the people: Anwar enjoying a casual lunch and conversation at a food court in Taman Datuk Harun, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
- LEONG WAI YEE/The Star

Harapan chairman, said the issue of disunity between PAS and Bersatu does not pose a concern for the government.

Asked whether the issue between the two parties will bring benefit to the unity government, Anwar said any conflict that arises is the responsibility of the parties concerned, and the government will not intervene.

"It's their (opposition parties)

problem; we are not involved. We do not interfere in the internal dispute between PAS and Bersatu; their conflict is not a concern of the government," he added.

It was reported that PAS president Tan Sri Abdul Hadi Awang stated that the relationship between PAS and Bersatu remains strong.

Hadi suggested that this relationship could facilitate the revival of Muafakat Nasional, in response to enquiries regarding the latest developments following proposals to dissolve Perikatan Nasional and re-establish Muafakat Nasional.

On a separate matter, Anwar

said local authorities should make Ramadan bazaars more transparent and orderly.

The Prime Minister praised Petaling Jaya for its transparent management of Ramadan bazaars, where online registration is used to prevent exploitation by middlemen and ensure fairness for traders.

"Ramadan provides opportunities for citizens, especially those from lower-income groups, to run small businesses and earn additional income."

Anwar also stressed the need for cooperation from municipal councils to ensure a smooth and fair process for traders and to

prevent profiteering through commissions.

While reforms are being implemented at higher levels, he acknowledged that challenges remain at the grassroots.

He recommended applying lessons from Petaling Jaya nationwide, such as maximising stall openings, maintaining cleanliness and providing well-equipped facilities.

"If the municipalities and state governments collaborate, I will discuss with the Housing and Local Government Ministry to help improve facilities for Ramadan bazaars, including water supply and sanitation."