

## **Anwar confident people will continue to contribute to the economy**

By Veena Rusli - January 24, 2023 @ 11:33pm

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is confident Malaysians will continue to contribute to the country's economic growth even when they are abroad.

The prime minister said the Malaysia MADANI concept which is the thrust of his administration is proof of the inclusivity of every level of society without prejudice.

"I want to start a new tradition where the foundation is unity. Slogans would not be enough to be convincing because what is more important is to realise the meaning of the concept through appreciation and practice.

"Truth, justice, unity, humanity, courtesy and grace are stunning concepts but the test is in the implementation.

"The nation and civilisation can be enhanced through idealism and discipline but it can also be ruined by discrepancies and corruption," said Anwar in his speech at a dinner with the Malaysian diaspora at the Malaysian High Commission's office here.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Openg, Sabah chief minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and Malaysia's High Commissioner to Brunei Datuk Raja Reza Raja Zaib Shah.

The event was attended by about 400 Malaysians living in Brunei.

Responding to a question during the dialogue session after the dinner, Anwar said the main challenge in implementing the Malaysia MADANI concept is the economic aspect.

"In this matter, businesses must progress, we need to explore new fields and must have value and courtesy. I formulated a new idea and elaborated on it so that the people can understand to ensure the implementation is smooth," said the prime minister.

Looking back to his 40 years in politics before being in his current position, Anwar said that he does not hold any grudges.

He said the exposure at the international level through his previous position in government has become the basis in introducing reforms.

"What would be the meaning of me holding a position in the international level if I cannot alleviate the people's position?"

"We want to bring changes, change the community's mindset. We want to fight the thinking related to racism. Islam can't be used to start a fight so I want to restore its value.

"Don't use Islam to insult people, to divide the community. We must fight the new conservative trend which is beginning to grow, to fight corruption. You think it is easy? No.

"We must be confident in facing the problems but Alhamdulillah, I have become the prime minister, my colleagues in the team are providing strong support. Previously, people thought this government is fragile but now it is stronger with 148 seats, so let's get working," said Anwar.