

PM: THESE ARE NOT ORDINARY TIMES

Govt must act with the demands of the time and adhere to strategic plans

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has warned that the Middle East conflict is expected to prolong, signalling that regional stability will likely deteriorate further before any recovery begins.

He said the nation must accept the reality that these are not ordinary times, adding that if the situation is alarming, the government must act in accordance with the demands of the period and adhere to its strategic plans.

“We have implemented several programmes involving both the cabinet and special committees to ensure fuel consumption remains controlled and energy sup-

plies are secured.

“We also express our gratitude to Petronas for its strategic planning in providing sufficient oil and gas supplies at least through May, which greatly assists the people and the nation.

“We must accept the reality that is no longer business as usual. If the situation is alarming, then we must act in accordance with the demands of the time and strictly adhere to our plans.”

To bolster national energy security, Anwar said that Malaysia is aggressively diversifying its oil and gas import sources.

He credited Petronas’ operational excellence for maintaining a steady supply chain during this volatile period.

Anwar also called for a shift towards fiscal discipline and social responsibility.

He called for a policy of cautious spending, beginning with the government’s own functions, and that Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations are to be observed with austerity, moving away from past extravagances.

“I express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all who

have embraced this spirit — those who are not arrogant or wasteful, and who do not act as if these are normal times by flaunting their wealth indiscriminately or pretending as though no one is affected.

“Such an attitude is detrimental to us all, as many of our citizens — the farmers, fishermen, and labourers — are still struggling under great pressure.

“Therefore, those who are wealthy and hold high positions must not be indifferent; they must show concern and offer help during these times that are weighing heavily on so many of our people,” he said.

Meanwhile, Anwar said the work-from-home (WFH) mandate for ministries, government agencies, statutory bodies and government-linked companies will begin on April 15.

“The objective (of the WFH initiative) is to reduce fuel consumption and ensure the sustainability of energy supplies,” he said.

He added that further details would be announced in due course.