

27/01/1997

Anwar: Don't reject multimedia

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NOTWITHSTANDING some negative aspects, multimedia can be an important vehicle to further the cause of Islam, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says.

As such, he said, the Muslim community should not entirely reject multimedia, in particular the Internet.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said like other media such as television, films, books and poems, Internet has good and bad implications. It is up to the Internet users to choose between what is good and bad.

"Through the Internet, we can find Islamic homepages, whole verses of Al-Quran and their interpretations, all of Shakespeare's literary works and vast amounts of other information.

"We can even learn to read the Quran through multimedia applications," he said in his address before the breaking of fast with Umno leaders from the Federal Territory and Selangor at the Al-Iman Ash-Shafie Mosque in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, last night.

Also present at the ceremony were Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Suleiman Mohamed and National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Hamid.

Anwar said if Muslims reject the current developments on the multimedia front, they will be left behind and end up losers in the highly competitive information technology-driven world.

"In promoting the Multimedia Super Corridor, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on the Muslims to balance between achieving progress and strengthening their `iman' (faith)," he said.

Muslims' strength and civilisation lie in maintaining their faith while seeking knowledge empowerment, he added.

Anwar also said that if the family institution can be strengthened, much of the social problems in the country will be solved.

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