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Anwar-Islam

MUSLIMS WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IF THEY REJECT MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- Muslims will be left far behind and remain ignorant if they reject the multimedia technology and fall prey to anti-development sentiments, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

"Those who reject progress in the information technology and the multimedia are the most depraved in Islam and will be the losers," he said before breaking the fast with Selangor and Federal Territory Umno leaders at Masjid Al-Iman Ash-Shafie, Taman Maluri Cheras, here tonight.

Anwar said in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call that Muslims should also play an active role in the multimedia development, the Muslim community must take advantage of the benefits offered by Internet.

"Don't just oppose for the sake of opposing, because such attitude only smacks of ignorance and I will advise them against oggling at nude pictures on the Internet while ignoring the Koranic verses on the Islamic homepage," he said.

He said in conjunction with the holy fasting month, Muslims must strengthen the family institution by assimilating the principle of "Shaharul Ramadan" so that it will have a truly meaningful effect on them.

Anwar, who is also chairman of the Cabinet committee dealing with social problems, said a large part of the social ills facing the society could be overcome if Muslims strived to enhance their obligations and making themselves as good examples for others to emulate.

"In tackling these problems, every mosque "qariah" must attempt to attract as many youths as possible to be involved in mosque activities by including them in the mosque committees," he said.

"Make the mosque as a venue for various religious and allowable social activities as an attraction for the youths to discharge their obligations as devout Muslims," he added.

He also criticised those who abused the mosques and suraus by turning them into a place for hurling abuse and insults against other fellow Muslims, without caring for their sanctity.

Anwar said Muslims must also reject any misinterpretation (of the divine teachings) by the orientalist, by proving that they were performing good deeds all the time and not just during the fasting month.

Also present were Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhamad Haji Muhd Taib as Selangor Umno Liaison Chairman and Deputy Information Minister Datuk Drs Suleiman Mohamad and Selangor Exco members. -- BERNAMA

ZAB AR AO