

PM: His unimpeachable integrity an example for younger generation

KUALA LUMPUR: The younger generation should emulate the personality of the late Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, a figure known for his integrity and consistency in championing unity, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Reminiscing about the time he met the former deputy prime minister, Anwar said Dr Ismail's assertiveness and strong integrity must be an example for the younger generation and future leaders of the nation.

"Nobody can dispute the fact that Tun (Dr Ismail) was a patriot, a true nationalist.

"I still remember his speech at a student event (which I attended). He was true and consistent to his beliefs.

"He stressed the importance of saving the country and accepting all people in the spirit of one true family.

"This is what we must learn. Instead of just remembering his contributions and being nostalgic, we want to revive this idealism to save the country," he said at the Commemoration of Statesman Tun Dr Ismail Al-Haj — The Pillar of National Unity event at Dataran Merdeka here.

It was attended by some 10,000 people, including Dr Ismail's son, Tawfiq.

Anwar said Dr Ismail's integrity in politics was exemplary.

He said the country should learn how to produce a new generation of leaders focused on upholding Dr Ismail's principles.

"After the generation of early leaders like Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Dr Ismail, we have had prominent figures. This I will



Kolej Vokasional Gombak students viewing a collection of photographs of Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman at Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

not deny.

"But it is hard to compare with a figure with such integrity. His demeanour, his firm stand against corruption and his support for good governance were revered by the people.

"People respected him for his integrity.

"He could not be bought nor easily persuaded with words, money or wealth.

"Our country will be safe if our leaders have integrity."

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil, National

Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Anwar highlighted Dr Ismail's clear policies and visions to rebuild the country after the May 13, 1969 racial riots.

He said even though Dr Ismail

was an aristocrat, he was always humble when talking about policies for rural development.

"He had a clear vision, which was to develop the country, drive growth and give hope to every citizen, be they Malay, Chinese, Indian or the people of Sabah and Sarawak."