

Lack of knowledge leads to narrow-mindedness: PM

> 'People, especially younger generation, must cultivate habit of reading books, including in new fields of study'

TANJUNG MALIM: Ignorance or lack of knowledge, especially among the younger generation, makes people susceptible to the beliefs and views of others or certain parties, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said anyone would be prone to accepting any view presented by others if they have limited knowledge and would fall into the trap of narrow-minded thinking.

"When our knowledge is limited and people say that if we don't do this, we will go to hell, all we ask is if it's true. We wouldn't dare to ask more. At the end of the day, we are trapped in conservative and narrow-minded thinking and tend to be judgmental of others."

He was speaking at the National Book Awards 2023 ceremony at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris yesterday.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir and National Book Development Foundation board of governors chairman Tan Sri Prof Abdul Latiff Abu Bakar.

Anwar said those, especially the younger generation, who wish to increase their knowledge must cultivate the habit of reading books, including in new fields of study.

"Take this message home with you. Our culture, the Malay culture and our civilisation will only progress with the strength of knowledge.

"If we want to advance, if we want to make this country a civilised nation, we must enhance our knowledge, compete with other countries, and with the culture of reading to increase knowledge, Malaysia will transform

into a great nation.

Anwar also expressed concern about the current generation, which easily falls for brief and incomplete ideas presented on social media.

He said topics such as economics, national policies and the ideals of struggles require in-depth exploration and consideration of complex perspectives, taking into account the concept of *Al-Kuliyah*.

He added that the concept of *Al-Kuliyah* is that knowledge should be mastered thoroughly, not through a brief overview on social media or in a one or two-minute talk on TikTok, Bernama reported.

Anwar pointed out that it is a challenge for today's youth to delve deeper into knowledge and information to formulate ideas.

He added that older generations should also continue seeking new knowledge, in line with the development of current technology, including artificial intelligence.

At the event, Anwar also approved an allocation of RM250,000 for the National Book Development Foundation.