

# Anwar: Don't divide ummah with slander

**KUBANG PASU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday urged people to avoid using politics to divide the ummah.

He said while his administration was open to criticism and differing views, he was against partisan politics that spread slander as it could lead to divisions among Muslims.

He said those obsessed with certain political parties and those who negatively labelled people not of the same page as them

were only making things worse for the ummah.

“I wish to stress once again, if we want to defend Islam, there are other (way) to criticise me.

“I can live with that. You may criticise the government, I can accept that, but slander is unacceptable.

“For example, there are views (about the issuance of a supposed fatwa) that if one is not with a particular party (then they) are not part of *Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah* (Sunni teachings of Islam).

That is very bad.”

He said this at SMA Nahdhah Hasanah's diamond jubilee celebration in Melele, Kodiang, here yesterday.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and SMA Nahdhah Hasanah headmaster Mohd Jamil Sadaqi Tajuddin.

Anwar urged Islamic scholars to correct such wrongdoings for the sake of unity among Muslims.

“Ustaz and religious scholars must advise (them).

“We should not be obsessed about parties to the extent of compromising the sanctity of Islam.”

At the function, he reiterated his administration's commitment to weed out practices of leaders using the people's money to enrich themselves.

He said he hoped corruption would be weeded out and urged cooperation from all parties to achieve this vision.