

Facing the future without forgetting the past

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KUCHING: The Malaysia Madani concept involves moving forward to a sustainable future while holding on to values from the nation's heritage, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said it was important not to leave behind knowledge and values inherited from previous generations in pursuing new ideas and technology.

"Malaysia Madani is about going back to our roots, traditions and cultures while being ready to face new challenges to make Malaysia prosperous and sustainable.

"We want to nurture Malaysians who will not leave behind our values and morals.

"This is why the core of the Madani concept involves trust and courtesy, which are important for nation-building," he said when opening the Imam As-Syafi'i international conference here yesterday.



Religious unity: Anwar (second from right) opening the Imam As-Syafi'i international conference in Kuching. With him is Abang Johari (centre) and other VIPs. - ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/The Star

Anwar paid tribute to Sarawak and the state leadership under Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg for supporting these val-

ues and ideals.

He also said mutual respect and understanding cultural differences in a diverse society was an

important part of Sarawak.

"We hope this is something that will become stronger in Malaysia Madani," he added.

The conference was organised by the Sarawak Mufti Department in conjunction with the state's 60th anniversary of independence within Malaysia.

It was attended by 1,300 participants, including international delegates from Brunei, Indonesia, Jordan and Yemen.

Meanwhile, Abang Johari said the Sarawak government would continue to emphasise racial and religious unity in the state without putting aside the priorities and sanctity of Islam.

He said this was necessary for the state to move forward.

"We are thankful because Sarawak is peaceful and our people always strive to be united despite our different races and religions.

"Sometimes we have differences of opinion but Alhamdulillah, to this day there has never been any major racial or religious conflict which could bring disunity to Sarawak's diverse society.

"This is what we all need to preserve together," he said.