



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (seated, second from right) talking to participants at the launch of the November National Family Month in Dataran Putrajaya yesterday. On his right is his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, pic by aizuddin saad

## 'Strong family values can prevent graft'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Corruption and misappropriation are early signs that a country will collapse, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

To prevent the country's downfall, he said, the government must ensure that the family institution was protected with strong values.

"According to (Muslim philosopher) Ibnu Khaldun, a country can move forward when it is administered well, rejecting immorality, corruption and misappropriation, embedded with moral values that were well understood by the leadership and the next generation.

"These led to the formation of great civilisations, but once these values are forgotten and immorality and corruption are rampant, it is a sign of the beginning of a collapse, even though the country's development and technology have progressed.

"And how are all these values fostered? Through families," he said at the launch of the November National Family Month in Dataran Putrajaya here yesterday.

Present were Anwar's wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Women, Family, and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri and her deputy, Aiman Athirah Sabu.

Anwar said values such as morality, courtesy and humanity, as well as interests in reading, learning and understanding the principles of religion, all began in the family.

He said people judged the ability of community leaders such as *penghulu*, village heads and even ministers by their capabilities in leading and caring for their families.

"If their families are in disorder, people will perceive them as being unable to manage society."

On the atrocities in Gaza, Palestine, Anwar said the public was affected by the cruelty because they had been trained by their families to understand the meaning of love, mercy and humanity, regardless of race or religion.

He said it was important for families to inculcate strong values, especially in a multiracial and multireligious country like Malaysia.

"Instilling strong values in children is the pillar of understanding Malaysia Madani.

"This concept is different as Madani stresses on values, morals and humanity, which can be sometimes forgotten when we are too focused on development, economy and (creating) jobs.

"While they are all important, the country can become great and progress further when there are strong values."