

**'OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE'**

# PM: STUDENTS MUST MASTER ENGLISH, BM

Mastery of both languages vital and position of BM must be upheld without compromise

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants the command of the English language among students to be improved by next year while ensuring that the position of Bahasa Malaysia (BM) is empowered without compromise. Anwar said dual mastery of languages was of utmost importance and is continually stressed in developed countries. "When we talk about quality of education, BM is the main language and there is no compromise on its mastery among all students. But at the same time, we also have to think of new ways to improve the command of the English language. "From next year, the command of the English language has to be



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and attendees praying at the event to mark the one-year anniversary of the Madani government administration in Putrajaya on Thursday. BERNAMA PIC

improved and, at the same time, the position of BM must be upheld," he said at an event to mark the one-year anniversary of the Madani government administration here on Thursday night.

Anwar said all pupils and students, especially those in national schools, must be given attention to improve their performance.

He advised all quarters against assuming that the government was emphasising only on mastering the English language.

"We should not be questioning whether the government is emphasising English only and neglecting BM... no.

"If we want the country to improve its economic capabilities and develop further, BM must remain the language of education; the main language that is mastered by all Malaysians in all schools. If the child is a Malaysian child, he or she must master BM. This cannot be taken lightly," he said.

After the event, Anwar expressed gratitude that his administration had completed one year of its term.

"*Alhamdulillah*, we have done this as a team and *Insyallah*, we will improve. With renewed strength, we can soar even higher," he said.