

Family values must be protected, says Anwar

PM: They're society and nation-building

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PUTRAJAYA. A corrupt and untrustworthy society will weaken any country, and it is these elements that have afflicted many civilisations throughout history, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Therefore, in line with the Malaysia Madani concept, society must protect its strong family values as they are crucial for nation-building, he said.

“When values disappear, although the country could still develop, evil things will grow, such as corruption and misappropriation. These are the signs that a society is losing its values.

“We can be successful if our families are nurtured the right way. Any group will flourish

when their leaders, whether the head of the family or the head of the nation, continue to protect strong family values.

“Otherwise, the (bad leader) will only harm the country and cause chaos. It will be difficult for such a person to convince society that the individual is capable,” he said in his speech when launching the National Family Month at Dataran Putrajaya here yesterday.

Among the ingredients of ensuring strong family unity, according to Anwar, is to nurture religious values among children from an early age.

He said this is especially so for Malaysia, a country that has communities of different backgrounds.

“A long time ago, (former British colonial official) Stamford



On the ground: Anwar with his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail visiting an exhibit at the launch of the National Family Month at Dataran Putrajaya. - Bernama

Raffles asked (Malayan writer) Abdullah Munshi, what were the children doing (in their daily activities).

“Abdullah Munshi said as soon as the children knew their parents, the people of Melaka at the time were taught about Allah, to read the Quran and learn the ‘Alif Ba Ta’ (Arabic alphabet).

“I hope these values can be instilled in everyone. When we are nurtured with the right values, we will always be in search of knowledge and have good discipline,” he added.

Anwar said strong family values will also shape society to become more compassionate and intelligent, adding that such values must be put into practice daily, especially by parents.

He said this was in line with the Madani concept, which is to instil strong values in every person.

“This is especially important during a difficult time such as now when we are seeing cruelty in Gaza.

“We were raised by our parents to be loving to one another. We were taught to understand the

meaning of love, compassion and humanity,” he said.

“Even though they (the Palestinians) are Arabs and not Malaysians, we feel hurt when they are hurt.

“How could we not be affected by injustice?

“We will have strong values and principles if we are instilled with them from an early age, which is why nurturing good values is one of the pillars of the Malaysia Madani concept introduced by the government,” he added.