

'Be wise in seeking similarities to avoid differences'

JAKARTA: Patriotism, maturity and culture are elements that must be upheld by the younger generation in Malaysia and Indonesia, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the younger generation in both countries needs to be wise when seeking similarities to avoid differences.

Anwar added that differences cannot be avoided but can be handled with care so that they would not lead to a split among the people of both countries.

"There must be clarity and maturity because they can bring about huge benefits to Malaysia and Indonesia," he said during the *Temu Anwar* event here on Tuesday.

"Indonesians, Malaysians do not have problems unless irresponsible politicians trigger unnecessary issues: Anwar

He said the people of both countries do not have problems unless self-centred politicians trigger unnecessary issues, Bernama reported.

"Small issues are blown up to gain support whereas the people in the region have the same historical backgrounds but are separated by colonisation by the Portuguese, Dutch and English.

"So, why must we adopt an

improper attitude to erase history just for the benefit of some?"

Anwar recounted several incidents, like the raising of the issue of the song *Rasa Sayang*, which originated from the Malay region, just like batik with its uniqueness and beauty.

"Therefore, if there are those who are keen to discuss the issue of culture, the most important quality is humanity, coupled with love for

one another and moral values. But these are the values that we have left behind."

On the Indonesian workforce in Malaysia, he said there were weaknesses in several cases where workers were abused, but pointed out that severe action was taken against those involved.

"However, a few cases do not represent the entire population of Malaysia. Whether such cases involve Indonesians or Malaysians, it will go through the legal process."

The *Temu Anwar* programme, which was a dialogue between the prime minister and youths, was held for the first time outside the country.