

# Islamic preachers must be proficient in English: PM

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for improved English proficiency among Islamic preachers to enable them to debate better with thinkers in Europe and abroad.

He said a good command of the language would enable Islamic teachings to be presented more systematically so that they could be understood in depth.

"In Europe (for example) a strong grasp of the English language (is required) to debate

with them (thinkers)," he said when speaking at the *Ilmu Madani* event on Wednesday.

Also present were Cambridge Muslim College founder and Board of Trustees chair Syeikh Dr Abdal Hakim Murad and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

Anwar hailed the strength and wisdom of Syeikh Abdal Hakim, who used intellectual language to debate and captivate the interest of people in Europe regarding Islam.

"Your strength is your ability to articulate brilliantly in English."

Anwar said Syeikh Abdal Hakim is a prominent public intellectual renowned for addressing challenges in the contemporary Islamic world, Bernama reported.

"He can engage with Islamic tradition and Western philosophy and culture."

He urged university students and youths to read books or scriptures together with lecturers so that the analysis could be understood clearly.