

A STRENGTH

Malaysia's diversity a privilege, not hindrance

says PM
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's diversity in race, culture and religion is not a weakness but a strength that can fortify the nation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said Malaysia was one of the few unique countries where its people could master multiple languages, including Malay, English, Chinese, Tamil, and various indigenous languages.

"While differences in skin colour, religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds can be used to incite hatred, we choose to see them as a strength that enhances national unity.

"The richness of Malaysia's arts and culture is also an attraction at the international level.

"Recently, many world leaders who visited Malaysia have expressed admiration for our country's cultural uniqueness. This proves that our diversity is a privilege, not a hindrance."

He said this at the commemoration ceremony for Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial.

Present were Tunku Abdul Rahman's grandchild, Datin Seri Sharifah Menyalara Hussein, Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Paduka Maimunah Mohd Sharif, and cabinet ministers.

Anwar emphasised that the country must continue to uphold the core principles established by past leaders to ensure Malaysia remained united and prosperous.

"The spirit of unity in diversity is the cornerstone of our nation's progress and stability. We cannot ignore the fact that this country was built on the foundation of unity. Malaysia will continue to prosper if we appreciate and safeguard this harmony," he said.

Anwar also urged the younger generation to understand and value the struggles of past leaders like Tunku Abdul Rahman in building a united Malaysia.

"The Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial is not just a tribute to history, but serves as a lesson and reminder to the people, especially the youth.

"It is not merely a historical commemoration, but a means for the new generation to understand the essence of struggle, sacrifice, and the importance of unity."