

'NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM'

'BREAK FREE FROM COLONIAL MINDSETS'

Vital to produce progressive thinkers, says PM

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THE national education system must be freed from colonial and “*jud*” (outdated) mindsets to produce progressive and courageous thinkers grounded in their own values.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said although the country has been independent for nearly seven decades, some still view foreign ideas as absolute solutions instead of developing their own intellectual framework.

“We are a post-independence nation, but our ideas are not fully free. Our thinking is still shaped

by external moulds. This is what I call ‘post-colonial angst’.. Still grappling with ideas dominated by others,” said Anwar at the closing ceremony of the Putrajaya Festival of Ideas 2025 here yesterday.

“We are not yet truly independent in terms of ideas. The country may be free, leaderships may change, but the driving ideas remain trapped in old frameworks.

“How is it possible that universities have flourished, professors now number in the thousands, and libraries are filled with books, yet old, regressive thinking still persists?

“There are still young people influenced by ideas that insult others because of their skin colour, social standing, or culture.”

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri

Dr Zaliha Mustafa and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

He said education should not be seen only as the pursuit of knowledge, but as a process of shaping the intellect and soul to discern truth, justice and humanity.

Anwar cautioned against narrow-minded thinking that stifled progress and reform.

Anwar also condemned the use of hate speech and racist remarks in the Dewan Rakyat, saying they were a reflection of an unhealthy political culture.

Anwar kept his response vague when asked about a possible cabinet reshuffle.

This comes as the terms of several senators serving in the cabinet as ministers and deputy ministers are due to end soon.

“Please give me your recommendations if you have any,” he quipped, before jokingly adding: “Do you want to shuffle or samba?”