

BALANCING ACT

ANWAR CALLS FOR EDUCATION REFORMS

Learning must liberate spirit, build identity, shape nation's thinking, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for sweeping reforms in Malaysia's education system to balance digital advancement with cultural and religious values.

He said education must "liberate the spirit, build identity and shape the nation's thinking".

"This morning, I chaired the National Education Council meeting, which discussed the major direction of our education — from the council's terms of reference, the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2026-2035, the Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint 2026-2035, to the review of general studies subjects.

"I emphasised to the Education Ministry and Higher Education Ministry that education reform cannot be carried out in isolation,

but must harness all strengths and connect innovation, society, artificial intelligence (AI), religion and societal values, so that education truly liberates the spirit, builds identity and shapes the nation's thinking," he said on Facebook yesterday.

Anwar said the nation faced the challenge of advancing in digitalisation and AI, while remaining grounded in values, culture and religion that shaped the intellectual framework.

He said the council must refine pressing issues, such as the implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics approach, AI, mastery of Bahasa Malaysia, English and History, as well as the role of religious and pondok schools, while strengthening synergy between universities and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia to build a future for education that was competitive and rooted in national identity.

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime minister