

# Silat training to pack more punch in schools

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**BUKIT MERTAJAM:** The government intends to increase silat training in schools and expand the martial art into higher learning institutions to strengthen unity and discipline among youths.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said silat should not only be seen as a sport or martial art, but also as a way to instil cultural pride and resilience among the younger generation.

"We will ensure our schools embrace the spirit of Pendekar Madani (Madani defender). We will expand silat training to polytechnics, teachers training institutes and universities as part of efforts to unite young people under one goal of uplifting the dignity and stature of our nation," he said before officiating the PMX Cup Silat Championship at Politeknik Seberang Perai here yesterday.

To support the development of the sport, Anwar announced an initial government allocation of RM2mil.

In his speech, Anwar stressed that silat was not meant as a "display of arrogance" but to train children to be disciplined and to be respectful of others.

"When we talk about the glorious history of the Malay Sultanate of Melaka, its strength came not only from power but also from knowledge, intellect, technology, strong values and discipline."

Among those present at the event were Pertubuhan Seni Silat Pusaka Gayong Malaysia (PSSPGM) chief Datuk Dr Raja Abdul Majid Raja Mat Isa.

The audience were treated to an energetic silat demonstration showcasing the artistry and strength of Silat Kuntau Tekpi, Gayong Malaysia Sendo and Silat Cekak Pusaka Ustaz Hanafi.

Anwar was accorded with the title "Sri Tri Buana Si Manjakini



**All for one and one for all:** Anwar (centre) at the Pendekar Madani event at the Politeknik Seberang Perai campus in Penang. - LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Gangga Chula Sakti" by PSSPGM.

According to history, silat is a traditional martial art deeply rooted in Malay culture, with origins tracing back centuries as

both a form of self-defence and a cultural practice tied to royal courts and village communities.

In Malaysia, it has evolved into a respected art form, blending

hand-to-hand self-defence with values of discipline, unity, and heritage preservation, often showcased in ceremonies, competitions and national events.