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WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

'Revitalise mosques with scholarly activities'

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for the revitalisation of mosques by fostering scholarly activities that can attract all groups, especially women and youth.

He said Islam placed great emphasis on the mastery of religious knowledge, especially the Quran.

This provided wisdom and helped society distinguish between good and bad, thus preventing division and conflict, he said.

Mosque management committees should increase religious programmes and classes that could attract all groups of society, he said.

"Ramadan is an opportunity for us to perfect our worship with clear intentions and increase our good deeds, including mastering the Quran and striving to understand and live by it.

"If the Quran is understood and resides in the heart, it will become a guide for humanity, providing the ummah enlightenment and strength to make judgments.

"With mastery of knowledge, there will be wisdom, insight and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim witnessing the presentation of a mock cheque from Penang Development Corporation senior deputy chief executive officer Datuk Mohamad Azhar Hamdan (left) to Masjid Jamek Perai management committee chairman Abdul Wahab Hanif at the opening of the mosque in Prai yesterday. With them is Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow (second from left). NSTP PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

mercy. That is why mosques need to be revitalised with religious activities, not only during Ramadan," he said in his speech at the opening of Masjid Jamek Perai here yesterday.

He said he approved RM100,000 for the mosque's management to organise programmes for the congregation, including welfare initiatives.

Masjid Jamek Perai was built by the community in 1979. Repairs

started in March 2021, costing RM5.5 million.

Anwar said mastery of religious knowledge can serve as a shield against evil that disrupted the harmony of community relations.

"This is what is happening with national polemics. The mosque should be a place of unity and not a platform to sow hatred or division among Muslims.

"Do not use Islam to create chaos or to attack. Give knowl-

edge to those who do not understand. Whatever it is, before making any decisions, there must be understanding.

"Having different opinions is fine, but there is no need to insult or curse.

"There will be differences of opinion, but we should not be quick to judge."

Anwar urged Muslims to defend the practice of zakat to ensure the welfare and interests of

the poor are protected.

"Islam supports the poor with zakat. There should be no division (among Muslims) that can destroy the zakat institution."

At the event, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) chairman Tan Sri Abdul Razak Abdul Majid presented contributions of RM20,000 to the chairmen of several mosques.

TNB allocated RM400,000 for 20 mosques in the state under its Ithya Ramadan Programme.