

14 MAY 1997

Anwar-by-election

TREAT BY-ELECTIONS SERIOUSLY, SAYS ANWAR

TELUK INTAN, May 14 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today reminded the public not to treat by-elections lightly by abstaining from casting votes during polling although the Barisan Nasional (BN) had secured a landslide victory in the last general election.

He gave this reminder when addressing a "meet the people" gathering in Sekolah Rendah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) San Min and repeated it at another one held at Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Kampung Bahagia here.

Anwar said the people even had the notion that the outcome of by-elections would not effect the position of the BN chairman as Prime Minister.

By-elections, he said, should also be considered as a yardstick to determine public support for government policies.

"The people should discard the view that our (BN's) defeat in by-elections still means victory because of the comfortable majority secured by the present government and that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will still remain as Prime Minister. It will be difficult if this attitude persists," he said.

Anwar also reminded the people not to be hoodwinked by destructive propaganda by the Opposition.

"The DAP's attitude of opposing government projects is detrimental," he said.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said the government has carried out urgent development projects to benefit all Malaysians irrespective of race.

The less urgent ones were carried out in stages according to the government's financial ability.

Anwar said he was not in favour of securing financial assistance in implementing a project which could be developed in stages with available funds.

He denied claims that the government only approved development projects during elections.

He explained that these projects were long approved but could only be implemented after certain procedures had been adhered to. -- BERNAMA

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