

Anwar: Back us if you agree with our policies
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Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) advisor Anwar Ibrahim made a fiery speech asking for opposition party leaders and members to work hard in the coming elections.

Speaking to a 600-strong crowd that gathered at the party's Chinese New Year open house in Kuala Lumpur last night, Anwar tested his Mandarin much to the crowd's delight.

"Xin nian hao, nian nian hao (happy new year, every year's a good year)," he greeted to start off his address.

In his speech that was sandwiched between singing and harmonica performances, he touched on several issues briefly including the recent dip in the Kuala Lumpur Composite Index.

"We want our economy to be better and not have the market perform so badly [...] we don't want the cost of living to rise ... we want our economy to be taken care off.

"If we want every year to be good, we must work hard because Malaysia is (a) good (country), the people are good but the government is not good," he smiled as the crowd gave a thunderous applause.

No empty promises

The former deputy premier then switched to a serious tone as he made references to the coming general election.

"I'll be honest tonight, I believe people will be spirited in the coming elections. Last time, Pak Lah had plans but his plans have all been postponed.

"We must work hard to change the government. If want to really change the government, we must have a good programme for the people," he said.

"I know many think politicians make empty promises but PKR with PAS and DAP have decided that if we want the people's support, it cannot be an empty support," he added.

He stressed that the people should only support the alternative front if they agree with their policies.

"We are asking for support of our policies, if you agree with our policies, give us your support. Otherwise, don't.

"Many think the opposition front policies are no longer useful. Yes, I don't dispute that. But government policies have let us all down.

"Some people think things will change by itself, no that's not right. We have to work

together to bring change," he said.

Ready to fight

Before he finished his 10-minute speech, Anwar raised a challenge to government that the opposition will be ready for elections.

"We're telling Barisan Nasional or rather Umno, that you want elections to be in June, we'll be ready in June. Please, we'll fight," with the audience breaking into a rousing applause.

The open house which saw lion and Indian dances was attended by PKR president Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, deputy president Dr Syed Husin Ali, vice presidents Sivarasa Rasiah and Dr Lee Boon Chye, treasurer Khalid Ibrahim and information chief Tian Chua.

Also present were Seputeh MP Teresa Kok, PAS treasurer Dr Hatta Ramli and Parti Sosialis Malaysia pro-tem president Dr Nasir Hashim.

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