

## **Pakatan senses winds of change in state**

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**By Ahmad Fadli KC**

N SEMBILAN As the countdown begins to the 13th general election, Pakatan Rakyat's mega-rally in Seremban last night drew a crowd of some 25,000 people.

pakatan ceramah seremban anwar300413 crowd 05This is being seen in some quarters as a sign of a possible shift in support for Pakatan in the state, following the narrow win for the BN in 2008.

The mega-rally held at Jalan Datuk Siamang Gagap, Sikamat, featured PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim, who arrived at 11.20pm.

He reiterated pledges from the Pakatan manifesto to reduce oil prices and abolish the National Higher Education loan scheme, if the coalition takes Putrajaya.

NONE"May 5th is polling day. On May 6th, we will form a new government. On May 7th, we will reduce the price of oil," said Anwar said to loud cheers.

PKR is defending the Ampangan and Sikamat state seats, which it won with a slim majority in the last election.

Negeri Sembilan PKR chief Kamarul Bahrin Abbas said Anwar's visit was intended to focus the party on winning as it enters the final leg of the campaign.

Kamarul has been fielded in Ampangan and will defend the Teluk Kemang parliamentary seat as well.

In the 2008 election, Pakatan succeeded in denying BN its two-thirds majority in Negeri Sembilan.

'Wu yue wu, huan zheng fu'

Pakatan won 15 seats (DAP 10, PKR 4 and PAS 1) while BN got 21.

"The same mood felt tonight was felt at the Pakatan ceramah at Terminal 2, Seremban five years ago, exactly two days before voting day," Malaysiakini was told by an attendee, who did not wish to be named.

NONEThe night's ceramah also reflected large support for the opposition coalition

by urban Malay voters, while the two mega DAP ceramah held at the Seremban market and Oakland Park attracted majority of Chinese voters.

Jalan Datuk Siamang Gagap, which is normally a four-lane road, last night turned into one lane, only passable by motorcycles at that, as the crowd spilled over from the ceramah site and onto the road to hear Anwar speak.

When Anwar arrived, the crowd repeatedly chanted "wu yue wu, huan zheng fu (We change the government on May 5)".

At the end of the ceramah, Anwar worked up the crowd by leading the cry of "Reformasi", "Membujur lalu melintang patah (will break any obstacle in our path)" and "Ubah (Change)", to which the crowd responded "Ini Kalilah (This time)".

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