

Anwar, please accept democracy
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Politics in Malaysia has changed radically since Mar 8, 2008. The Barisan Nasional has fallen from its once strong position as the people's choice government. Prior to this the Alliance and later the BN with representatives from all the communities was the only real option at both the state and federal levels.

Anwar Ibrahim enters parliament building as mp 280808 10 This situation has changed with the loss of two third majority in parliament and five states to Pakatan Rakyat. Anwar Ibrahim in his dynamic leadership style has made a tremendous comeback in a huge way capturing the imagination and hearts of people. His recent victory at Permatang Pauh and entry into Parliament further enhances his position as alternate national leader.

These are Anwar's achievements which the people have given him. They were not secured through political manipulation but in spite of the heavy odds against the Pakatan the ordinary voters gave to him and his team. However the current attempt to do 'a political coup' by getting forty Members of parliament to cross over to his coalition is an act which is not respecting the wishes of the people.

A foundational leadership quality is patience. Waiting for your time is most critical. Patience is a real virtue but more that this leadership quality is respecting the wishes of the people. This is the most sacred democratic principle. Political expediency in a manipulative way will never be long lasting. We have to learn the lessons from many countries that have undergone military coups. Respecting democracy and democratic principles is fundamental.

anwar permatang pauh thanksgiving dinner310808 supporters.jpg Anwar and his team of politicians must never underestimate the people. Early this year, voters did something that most Malaysians did not imagine would happen. The transition of power at the state government went on smoothly. But Anwar's team does not have the mandate for the federal government and therefore his attempts to undertake a coup by Sep 16 is not in the best interest of the nation.

In the interim period to the next general elections, the opposition leader and his members in the parliament must devote much attention of being an effective opposition including establishing a shadow cabinet.

Alternative development

Articulating alternative public policies, challenging existing ones, monitor performance of Ministries and their delivery systems is urgently needed. Be the voice and conscious of the nation in parliament. Organise public gathering to articulate public concerns and remedies.

But most of all settle policy differences among the various component parties pakatan rakyat mp parliament dinner 290408 04 within the Pakatan on critical matters pertaining especially to religious freedom, fundamental liberties, and alternative development plans which are inclusive for all Malaysian.

Run the five Pakatan states differently from those run by the Barisan upholding your

promises and venture to undertake independent impact assessments of projects undertaken illustrating difference in governance, integrity, public accountability and public participation both at the State and local government levels.

Capturing the federal government through a general election is a more honourable way rather than just getting MPs to betray their party, their constituencies and their conscience.

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