

NEP must be replaced, says Anwar

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PETALING JAYA: A new affirmative policy should benefit the poor of all races in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said in an interview on Al Jazeera.

He said the New Economic Policy (NEP) had only benefited a few rich Malays when it was meant for poor Malays.

"The Government should dismantle the NEP and replace it with a policy to benefit the poor of all races. A policy to correct the imbalance of the marginalised should be implemented.

"The Government must introduce a policy without any racial lines to benefit all races," he said in an interview on the channel's *Riz Khan* talk show, in Washington.

When interviewer Anand Naidu asked Anwar how he planned on becoming prime minister when he was banned from political activity (until April 2008), he said that he was looking forward to a pardon.

"It is up to the King to grant the pardon," said Anwar.

On his anticipated election as the Parti Keadilan Rakyat leader in May, Anwar urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to allow him to lead the party.