

# Umno assembly deflected from real issues: Anwar

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**BUKIT MERTAJAM:** The recent Umno general assembly had deflected from the fundamental issues of economic development, growth and distributive justice and embarked on attacks against the non-Malays, said Parti Keadilan Rakyat adviser

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the Umno annual meeting should have been used as a platform to raise issues and suggestions to stimulate the sluggish economic growth.

"The much lower pace of foreign investments will affect the confidence of business and trade, and trickle down the impact to the lower traders and employment," he said.

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"The government is in a state of denial and not taking positive measures to address the issue," said the former Umno deputy president.

"In spite of the economy being sluggish, the issues raised were those to incite and fan racial sentiments as though the economic scenario faced by the Malays now is due to the challenges posed by non-Malays,

especially the Chinese.

"This is not true as the economic slowdown is due to the weak leadership, policies and programmes carried out by the government," Anwar said.

"The entire polemics on the issue of New Economic Policy (NEP) is really an attempt to deflect the attention from the basic fundamental issue of

growth, economic development and distributive justice," he told reporters at the Hari Raya open house at his family home in CheroK To'Kun here yesterday.

He said those who were questioning the relevance and wisdom to continue with the NEP were not only the Chinese but also concerned Malays.