

ANWAR: PH NEEDS TO WORK HARDER

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PKR president says it should strive to serve people better, focus on cost of living

KUALA LUMPUR

THE outcome of the Cameron Highlands by-election serves as a reminder to Pakatan Harapan to be more sensitive to the concerns of the people, particularly in regard to the economy and cost of living.

PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said while the ruling coalition accepted the results, the important thing was to emerge from it by serving the people better.

"I believe this result serves as a reminder for PKR and Pakatan Harapan leaders that we need to be sensitive to the uneasiness felt



by the people in terms of the economy and cost of living.

"We need to strive harder to fulfil the 14th General Election (GE14) manifesto, while tackling problems that arise due to race and religion in a wise manner," he said in a statement on his official Facebook account yesterday.

Barisan Nasional candidate Datuk Ramli Mohd Nor won the by-election on Saturday in a landslide victory, which saw the op-

position party retaining the parliamentary seat with a 3,238-vote majority.

Ramli saw off his stiffest rival from PH, M. Manogaran, in a race that included two independent candidates, Sallehudin Ab Talib and Wong Seng Yee, who polled 314 and 276 votes, respectively.

It was the first time BN won in the five by-elections held after GE14.

Saturday's polls result was higher than BN's 568-vote majority in GE14.

Analysts and politicians observed how much BN benefited by fielding a direct candidate of Orang Asli descent as it proved the importance of being able to meet grassroots' sentiments.

Ramli created history by becoming the first elected Orang Asli member of parliament (MP).

Anwar was among PH leaders who congratulated Ramli over his victory and for being elected as an MP.

"PKR wishes to congratulate the Election Commission (EC) for handling the Cameron Highlands by-election well, especially for managing public complaints and the early announcement of the results."

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the victory signalled the political resurrection of BN.

"To Pakatan Harapan, this is the start of BN's resurrection.

"We will not stop until Putrajaya is ours again, *insya-Allah*," he said while thanking Cameron Highlands voters for continuing to believe in BN.

He said it was the people who triumphed in the by-election.

He said as informal partners, BN and Pas needed to continue shouldering the responsibility in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

"Cameron Highlands taught us something important.

"That the common people, es-

pecially Malays and Orang Asli in rural areas, refused to have their votes affected by threats and insults.

"They are loyal to our struggle and they remember even the smallest good deeds that we have done when we were in power."

In George Town, Umno Supreme Council Member Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican expressed his gratitude to Pas for the role it played in BN's victory in the by-election.

He paid tribute to the Islamist party which went down to the ground and helped the BN candidate during the campaign.

"(Umno) thanks (Pas) supporters, especially the grassroots from the Jelai constituency, who helped our candidate.

"We also owe (a debt of gratitude) to the Orang Asli voters, who, despite the threats, stuck with us unequivocally.

"*Alhamdulillah* for the win," he said.