

There's only one way to the top

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Go through the proper channels, Anwar tells those eyeing PM post

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KUALA LUMPUR: Those wishing to succeed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the eighth prime minister must hold on to noble values and uphold their own party's principles, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Those with any aspiration to be prime minister must go through the proper channels, otherwise the candidate would most likely be forced to sell out.

"I won't stop anyone interested in being the next premier).

"But, follow the usual channels, otherwise we will have to cooperate with certain groups, hold secret meetings, and we won't be able to focus on our job," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Anwar also said leaders must focus on their duties to address issues which regular Malaysians face.

"The economy must be developed and rakyat issues must be addressed. If we don't learn from



our terrible defeat in the Tanjung Piai by-election, we will be in trouble," said Anwar, who stopped short of naming names.

According to Anwar, results in the recently concluded Tanjung Piai by-election came as an "extraordi-

nary surprise", where Malaysians had used the ballot box to send a clear message to the government of the day.

However, he expressed dismay that certain leaders still acted as though nothing had happened

despite Pakatan's disastrous defeat.

"In Pakatan, we must be humble. It seemed as though the people are angry, or they wanted to protest or they wanted to teach us a lesson. So learn quickly.

"If we are still continuing with

our old ways by showing off power, distributing projects, buying over people and using fake news, this will not help us at all," he said.

Anwar also dismissed speculation that a motion for a vote of no confidence against Dr Mahathir would be tabled in Parliament soon.

"It didn't arise and I would have known (about the motion). I call Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Mohamad Sabu, Lim Kit Siang and Lim Guan Eng almost every day.

"It did not arise at all because our relationship in Pakatan is strong," he said.

Gombak MP Datuk Seri Azmin Ali was recently criticised by his party colleagues for holding a meeting with Umno and PKR MPs at his official residence in Putrajaya on Monday.

The meeting was allegedly to ensure the leadership of Dr Mahathir as prime minister had good support from Pakatan and the Opposition.

Calls for Dr Mahathir to step down as prime minister have been steadily growing after Pakatan suffered a 15,086-vote majority defeat by Barisan Nasional in the Tanjung Piai by-election.

In the spotlight:

Anwar speaking to the media at the Parliament lobby.