



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim greeting people at a 'kenduri rakyat' and presentation of Bakul Rahmah aid at Dataran Taman Dahlia in Kempas yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

'ADHERE TO ETHICS'

DON'T USE PARTY LOGO FOR GOVT AID, SAYS PM

Stop the practice immediately, warns Anwar, including during by-elections

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has put his foot down on the issue of using party logos when distributing government aid.

He said despite such things occurring "once or twice" in his administration, such practices must be immediately stopped.

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, said all government aid must be labelled with the government logo and not with the logos of political parties.

This followed a recent controversy in which Local Government Development Minister Nga Kor Ming brushed off the use of DAP's logo on government aid that was channelled to Chinese primary and secondary schools in Perak.

"This has been practised by the previous Perikatan Nasional government and happened once or twice in the unity government. Our instruction is that this is not allowed. Government aid must be distributed under the government's name," Anwar said after attending a *kenduri rakyat* and presenting Bakul Rahmah aid at Dataran Taman Dahlia in Kempas here yesterday.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Deputy Domestic Trade and Cost

of Living Minister Fuziah Salleh, Parti Amanah Negara vice-president Senator Datuk Seri Mujahid Yusof Rawa and Pakatan Harapan's candidate for the Pulai parliamentary seat, Suhaizan Kaiat.

On Wednesday, Umno Youth chief Dr Muhammad Akmal Saleh demanded that Nga explain the presence of DAP's logo on mock cheques for donations made out to 17 vernacular schools in Ipoh.

Photos of the donation presentation posted on social media showed mock cheques bearing the DAP logo alongside the logos of PH and Malaysia Madani, as well as Malaysia's coat of arms.

However, Nga dismissed the call, saying there was no issue with the use of the party logo and that it was more important for the schools to benefit from the aid.

Anwar said such a practice of using party logos for government aid must be avoided at all times, including during a by-election.

He said all parties need to adhere to campaign ethics and respect the rules set by the Election Commission (EC) during the campaign period for the Pulai and Simpang Jeram by-elections.

"On the campaign ethics and distribution of government aid, I have discussed with Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi to ensure that there is no breach. We must respect the rules set by the EC."

On yesterday's event, Anwar said the efforts of the late Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub in introducing the Payung Rahmah initiative had helped reduce the people's burden.

"This government is always

thinking about initiatives that benefit the people, not to fight, insult people, or incite fights among the races or parties.

"We are carrying out the trust. Salahuddin was in politics for a long time, but when he was given the post, his focus was to reduce the burden of the cost of living. May his example be continued so that the government will be strengthened in serving the people."

However, he said, certain things were beyond the government's control.

"An example is when the Indian government announced to increase the export tax for onions by 40 per cent, which is expected to have an impact on the price of onions in Malaysia."

As such, he said, for the long term, the government was focusing on strengthening the agricultural sector to reduce the country's dependence on food imports, which reached tens of billions of ringgit every year.

Prior to *kenduri rakyat*, Anwar joined a congregation to perform prayers at Masjid Jamek Ar-Rahman in Taman Dahlia here and met with the people.

At a separate event, Anwar, who is the finance minister, said the government would create a special financial zone in Forest City to boost investment, growth and economic activity in Johor.

He said this meant that the cost of doing business in this special financial zone would be more affordable, aided by incentives provided by the government.

He said Johor's strategic location next to Singapore and having a complete basic infrastructure could attract more investors.