

PETALING JAYA: Entering the second round of the election campaigning in six states, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim advised all

contesting parties, including the Opposition, to campaign prudently and not insult opponents.

The Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman said they should use the election campaign as a platform to explain current issues to the people.

"In politics, you can be firm, but don't swear. I heard in a *ceramah* (political talk) recently words like 'Anwar is treacherous, Anwar is an idiot! My advice is, let's not be too arrogant.

"They (the Opposition) want to criticise, it's alright. What I do may not be right all the time, (they) can criticise and can give views. But don't insult.

"Campaign well, no need to curse and no need to insult because in the end, we are friends, family too," he said at the Unity Public Talk at Dataran Anak Muda here on Sunday night.

Anwar also refuted claims that he and members of the unity government were arrogant and cruel, and stressed that he and his Cabinet members constantly strive to be leaders who are just, look after the welfare of the people and reject corruption, Bernama reported.

"Now they (the Opposition) call us tyrants,

Don't swear: Anwar

> Parties urged not to use bad language or insult opponents when campaigning

because they (some opposition leaders) have been charged in court for corruption, that was not my decision. I was in and out of prison and spent almost 11 years in prison.

"I'm a prime minister now, not a job to be

cruel. Why did Allah put me through so tough a test? Not only me (but also my wife) Wan Azizah, my children, family and friends," he said, adding that the unity government has never denied the rights of any of the races in

the country.

"I am a Muslim, my religion does not teach me to insult people because of their skin colour and race. If it is right (good for the people), we will support it.

"Allocations for the Islamic agenda, raising the dignity of the Malays, has been increased. All these, Anthony Loke (DAP secretary-general) does not object. He supports it because he understands the country's needs."

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I want to solve people's problems: PM

Meanwhile, at the Ceramah Mega Perdana programme in Ukay Perdana, Selangor, Anwar reiterated the unity government's commitment to end hardcore poverty this year, even if additional funds are required for the purpose.

"Do you think that I, as prime minister, can sleep soundly and

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not be bothered that those people (the poor) are neglected? Never! My friends, (if) RM100 million is not enough, then RM200 million. I don't care. I will find (the funds) ... that's my promise," Anwar said.

"Call me (whatever you want), insult me, even if you say I'm

'stupid', I don't care. I will continue to do my best for the people and the country. I'm sure we can (do it).

"That's why I said I don't want to merely build landmarks and have Malaysia known only for great landmarks. The first thing I want to solve is the people's problems ... the issue of hardcore poverty," he said.