

# Kelantan not marginalised, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The unity government has never marginalised Kelantan, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said based on facts Kelantan is the state that receives the highest allocation from the federal government.

"All important views and suggestions from the state government, such as on flood mitigation, water issues and state development - I accept and am committed to resolving them.

"This view (Kelantan being marginalised) does not follow (facts) and is not based on facts. I want to reiterate, the (federal) government's allocation (to Kelantan) is more now

> State has received highest allocation from federal government, more than when PAS and Bersatu were in power'

than when PAS and Bersatu were in the 'government,'" he said after attending the 36th Asia-Pacific Round Table Conference here yesterday.

He said this in response to a claim by PAS assistant secretary-general Mohd Syahir Sulaiman in a debate with Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli on Wednesday that Kelantan had never enjoyed the benefits of federalism because the state

leadership is not aligned with the federal government.

Anwar said PAS-led Kelantan government leaders, including young leaders like Syahir, should be brave to correct internal problems as well as provide suggestions for the state's development.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the unity government had given an assurance

that it would attract more foreign and domestic investments to Kelantan if the Barisan Nasional (BN)-Pakatan Harapan (PH) alliance were to win the state election.

"This is one area BN-PH will focus on, besides the education sector and creating job opportunities for the people of Kelantan.

"We will bring more foreign investors to Kelantan and then provide job opportunities. We do not want Kelantan folk to be jobless and eventually have to go elsewhere to look for work."

Ahmad Zahid was speaking to members of the Pasir Puteh BN-PH machinery and supporters at the Kampung Pulau Lima Uthmaniyah hall, Bernama reported.

Present were Umno secretary-general Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Kelantan Umno chairman Datuk Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub and Pasir Puteh Umno division chief Datuk Zawawi Othman.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also BN chairman, stressed that Islam has never been challenged under a unity government.

He said allocations for Islamic affairs and institutions continued to increase since the unity government came to power.

"Since taking over, has Islam been threatened or challenged? Instead, there have been more (allocations) made for Islamic activities compared with the time of the previous three prime ministers."