

# 'Govt will not marginalise minority communities'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given an assurance that the nation's minority communities, including those in Sabah and Sarawak, will not be marginalised by his unity government.

He said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah

Yusof has been tasked to resolve any problem that had previously hurt the feelings of the people of the two East Malaysian states.

"We must also be aware that certain minority communities in our country, whether Chinese or Indian, feel that there is an

approach to marginalise or degrade them.

"I wish to assure you that the unity government will not allow this to happen, especially in Sabah and Sarawak," he said, when delivering his mandate themed "Developing Malaysia Madani" yesterday.

Anwar said Fadillah has been given complete trust to resolve all pending matters related to the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) to ensure that the interests of the people in Sabah and Sarawak would be protected.

He said although the agreement was signed by previous leaders, it was the current government's responsibility to fulfil what had been promised.

"How is it possible that after 60 years, we have not given them the right to decide and implement RM10 million projects on their own, but we have agreed to allow it now."

He added that a meeting on MA63 would be held in Kuching, Sarawak today when most of the matters would be resolved.

Anwar also stressed that it was the government's responsibility not to allow any group or race to be plagued by poverty and be left behind in the development process.

"They should not be assisted solely by giving handouts. Our responsibility is to try our best to help them break free from the shackles of poverty.

"I use the term break free because we cannot be giving aid all the time as they will continue to depend on government contributions, which create a dependency syndrome."  
- Bernama



Anwar after delivering his mandate themed 'Developing Malaysia Madani' at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday. In the centre is Fadillah. - **BERNAMAPIC**