'WE'LL WREST 2 PN STATES AS WELL'

Anwar confident based on survey findings, developments in political landscape

ADIB POVERA
AND WARA ZULKIFLEE
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has issued a warning to Perikatan Nasional (PN) over the unity government's intentions in the upcoming elections in six states.

The Pakatan Harapan chairman and PKR president said he was confident that the PH-Barisan Nasional pact would not only defeat their opponents to retain the three states under them, but would wrest two PN-held states as well.

This, he said, was based on the readings on the ground and the developments in the country's political landscape. Anwar, however, did not name the two PN states.

"Insyallah, based on the present development as well as all the surveys conducted, I foresee that (PH) remains strong in the three states (previously controlled by the coalition).

"We are now focusing on another two states," he said after attending the Madani Forum entitled "The ethics of differences of opinion in strengthening national unity" here yesterday.

Of the six states that will be facing elections, three, namely Penang, Selangor and Negri Sembilan, were controlled by PH.

The remaining states — Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu — were under the administration of Pas and its allies in PN.

Anwar also said seat negotiations between PH and BN had been finalised.

"I have met (BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad) Zahid (Hamidi). The seat negotiations have been finalised.

"As of now, there is no overlapping of seats between PH and BN. However, we are providing avenues for the PH and BN leaders at the state level in the six states to provide their views and inputs," he said.

It was reported that the Election Commission will convene a special meeting today (Wednesday) to decide on the important dates for the state elections.

By law, an election has to be held within 60 days of the dissolution of Parliament or a state assembly. The six state elections are most likely to be held simultaneously and, as such, with Kelantan being the first state to dissolve its assembly on June 22, elections must be held by the third week of August at the latest.