

PM: REJECT THOSE RIDING ON RELIGION

Anwar urges voters in 6 states to prevent them from coming into power

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on voters in Selangor and the other five states involved in the Aug 12 state elections to reject those riding on religious issues to come into power.

Although the prime minister did not identify specific political figures, it was understood that the Pakatan Harapan (PH) chairman and PKR president was referring to Pas and its allies in the Perikatan Nasional (PN) bloc.

"We must fight against groups riding on religion that intend to come into power through spreading lies and slander," said Anwar at the launch of the PH and Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery in Bandar Baru Bangi on Friday.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and other PH and BN leaders.

Apart from Selangor, other states that will hold state polls are Kedah, Penang, Negri Sembilan, Kelantan and Terengganu.

At the same event, Anwar dismissed accusations suggesting that the unity government did not uphold or was neglecting Is-

lam and Muslims in the country.

"In these state elections, they (the opposition) are accusing us of neglecting Islam. I challenged them to state when we (the unity government) neglected Islam during (the recent) parliamentary sitting.

"The fact is that we increased allocations to boost the status of Islam. We have intensified *dakwah* (missionary activities).

"The role of Jakim (Department of Islamic Development Malaysia) and other departments tasked with looking after the welfare of Muslims have all been intensified under this administration. "We never used Islam to discriminate against or punish people.

"It is not your job to send a person to hell or heaven. There is no guarantee that you will be accepted into heaven," said Anwar.

Meanwhile, in a posting on his Facebook account, Anwar wrote about the narrative painted to discredit the unity government.

"Until today, there has been no criticism that can be considered constructive from the other side (of the political divide).

"Almost every day, they have been repeating slander to attack us. This is nothing surprising since the people and the country have witnessed during the few last parliamentary sittings how empty and weak is the argument presented by the opposition."