

REMINDER

PM: DON'T DRAG ROYALS INTO POLITICS

Anwar tells politicians to be responsible for their actions

BY MOHAMED BASYIR
AND QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN
SABAK BERNAM
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday reminded politicians not to drag royals into their political affairs.

He said they should own up to their actions and be responsible if they had offended royalty.

"*Pandai cakap, tanggung lah* (Take responsibility for your actions). It's not only Selangor, but

"Do not equate royals to us (politicians). They cannot campaign like us.

"They have their *taraf* (level). Do not drag them into this (politics).

"If you want to stir up racial sentiments, it will not work.

"One's character is important. They say that they look up to the Prophet, but they end up doing the opposite, like slandering and insulting others.

"This cannot be happening," he said at the state-level *Sentuhan Kasih Desa* programme here.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Anwar's reminder came on the heels of the case of caretaker



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting a booth at the state-level 'Sentuhan Kasih Desa' event in Sungai Besar yesterday. On his right is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi
BERNAMA PIC

counts of uttering seditious remarks that could incite disloyalty against the rulers.

At the "Kita Hulu Kelang" programme in Keramat on Friday night, Anwar addressed criticisms that he was being "cruel" over the action against Sanusi.

"People told me that I was being cruel over his (Sanusi's) court charges, but I was not the one who lodged the report.

"It was done by members of Dewan Diraja Selangor (Selangor Royal Council) following the consent given by the sultan of Selangor.

audience with the sultan? Why did he also apologise if such remarks weren't made in the first place?

"The monarchy is sovereign, and the royal institutions are the umbrella of the country.

"Hence you are looking for trouble (when you make such remarks)."

He reiterated that he was not involved in the charges against Sanusi.

"This (matter) is under the jurisdiction of the police, prosecutors and attorney-general. I am not involved in any of the pro-

pagans that degraded certain quarters, adding that this could be seen through opposition leaders' way of claiming to present "Islamic values" in their campaigns.

He said while he had accepted becoming a campaign target, Pas had changed, unlike when it was under the leadership of its late spiritual leader, Tan Sri Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, and late president Datuk Fadzil Noor.

"This is not the time to throw insults (at each other).

"But what we are seeing in the weeks heading up to the state