

## GROOMING FUTURE LEADERS

# 'DISMAY OF THOSE AXED FROM POLLS EXPECTED'

**Situation under control, won't affect Pakatan Harapan's performance in polls, says Anwar**

MOHD KHIDIR ZAKARIA  
PORT DICKSON  
news@nst.com.my

**I**T is normal for some people to be dissatisfied if they were not chosen to be election candidates, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said he respected every view, but not everyone would be satisfied about being dropped as a candidate, even after hearing the explanation.

"I have done my best... but there are still those who insult me every day, so I am just being patient," he said after the Jelajah Perpaduan Madani programme and unity government machinery launch here on Thursday night.

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, said the situation was under control and would not affect the coalition's performance in the six state polls.

"We must have future leaders, too. We cannot stay (in power) forever," he said.

Campaigning for the polls begins today after the candidates

file their nomination papers.

On the coalition's manifesto, Anwar said he would leave it to the state leaders to develop their own.

"Each state has their own plan on what they want, and we believe that they can devise a manifesto suitable to their needs," he added.

Earlier, the PKR president handed out appointment letters to candidates of the state elections slated for Aug 12.

Anwar also announced that Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, would visit Malaysia next week.

He said several memoranda of understanding, including on investment, would be signed during the visit, and would provide a positive impact on the country.

"In my eight months as the prime minister, the sultan of Brunei has visited Malaysia twice. We do our work, investments are important because if there are no investments, there is no money," he said.

Anwar said China's automotive giant Geely had also written to him about an intended US\$10 billion investment that was expected to turn Tanjung Malim in Perak into the biggest automobile hub in the region.

"If Perikatan Nasional (PN) wants to make noise or curse that Anwar is lying, I wish to inform them that I have the letter and it can be distributed.

"This afternoon, the Hong

Kong Special Administration Region's chief executive, John Lee Ka-chiu, brought half of his cabinet members to discuss with us possible investments and tourism. This is because the country's policies are stable," he said.

Anwar also expressed his confidence that Negri Sembilan would remain a stronghold for the unity government.

"There are former ministers making a lot of noise here and there but they have no support."

He cautioned party supporters to be wary of efforts to divide them.

"We must defend the state as an important stronghold, the foundation of the unity government. Our job is to save this state and this country," he said.

Earlier, DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke, in his speech, said the party would always fight based on the constitution and uphold the privileges of the Malays.

He urged the public not to believe allegations that if DAP was in the government, Bahasa Malaysia and the privileges of Malays would be scrapped.

"Umno's president and deputy president are in the cabinet because we know our country is peaceful and (we) must cooperate.

"Speaking of Bahasa Malaysia, I'm not that bad, (as I obtained) Al in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia. I am proud although I'm Chinese," he said.