

Retain PH leaders, Anwar tells Penang voters

BALIK PULAU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim urged Penangites to retain Pakatan Harapan (PH) leaders as they have been governing the state well.

Anwar said he has good ties with Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, and the federal government would continue to assist Penang to resolve state-related issues.

"(The people of) Penang must give opportunities to capable leaders to govern, I would like to

> Good ties with chief minister augurs well for state, with federal govt ready to assist where possible: PM

explain here, and we must fully understand this.

"In the past, they said if Anwar were to lead, that would be the end of Malays, (and that) all religious schools would be shut.

"During campaigns, they said

when Anwar becomes prime minister, you can't wear the *hijab* any more. So what do you think they are wearing now?

"So I am asking Penang to continue to be strong (under PH rule). I am always in close contact

with the chief minister. The federal government will help in whatever way it can, and what the state government is capable of doing, let it handle," he said during a meet-and-greet session with Balik Pulau residents at the night market here yesterday.

Anwar also denied claims that he is succumbing to DAP's wishes regarding the affairs of the country's administration, adding that he could not be "bought" as claimed by certain parties.

"Yes, DAP is our friend, and we only give them positions, but do remember who is still the boss. Do you think I am stupid?

"Anthony Loke is the transport minister, he abides by policies and brings (proposals) to the Cabinet, and only when the prime minister approves, can they be implemented. I am the type who can take all sorts of criticisms but to buy out Anwar is not possible."

Meanwhile, Anwar said he would keep pursuing Malaysia's reform efforts with all his might, Bernama reported.

"These past six months, they have been asking what has Anwar been doing. I want to say here that I am changing things for the better with all my might and helping the poor, especially the hardcore poor.

"The nation is rich, but there have been huge losses. So, what we need to do is stop this plundering of the people's wealth. It doesn't matter if (you) wear a religious headgear, coat or anything else. Whether (you are) a Tan Sri or Tun or from any party for that matter, if you steal money, we will shove you into my (old) cell in Sungai Buloh (prison)."

"It's still vacant," he quipped.



Anwar mingling with staff of the Prime Minister's Department following the monthly meeting in Putrajaya yesterday.

- BERNAMAPIC