

Analysts: Sultan Ibrahim's hands-on approach aligns with PM's style

KUALA LUMPUR: Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, who will become the 17th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, has set high standards for the public administration led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Political analyst Mujibu Abdul Muis said as a visionary ruler, Sultan Ibrahim's proactive ap-

proach aligned with Anwar's leadership style that was all about "reforms".

"Sultan Ibrahim has always been vocal in expressing his views and desire to see changes in many areas, including agriculture.

"This could be an indicator of a good relation between the next

king and prime minister in achieving feats in the years ahead," said Mujibu, who is Universiti Teknologi Mara Malay Rulers Institution Chair fellow.

He said with Sultan Ibrahim's reign, the institution of the constitutional monarchy would have a bigger role as a check-and-balance to propel a dynamic government.

He said the Johor ruler had proven this by addressing issues faced by the people in the state legislative assembly.

"One thing Sultan Ibrahim insisted is for everybody to stop politicking and to focus on maintaining stability so that the government can focus on its job.

"He has laid a good foundation by setting a clear bottomline and reminding all parties on the need to respect the mandate given by the people," he said.

Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research senior fellow Dr Azmi Hassan said Sultan Ibrahim and Anwar were on the same

page in eradicating corruption either in the public service or private sector.

The ruler is very vocal on various matters and doesn't mince his words if he's unhappy about certain things, he said.

"Sultan Ibrahim did say that Anwar is the best prime minister he has ever worked with, which is a positive note towards his administration.

"It's going to be a very interesting era.

Anwar as prime minister and Sultan Ibrahim as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong because both of them envision an efficient and corruption-free Malaysia, in terms of administration," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Sultan Ibrahim had earlier this month reminded all state civil servants to ensure that they were

not lured by the trappings of corruption.

He also warned government staff in Johor that they were being watched and that anyone of them who were living beyond their means would raise questions.

Sultan Ibrahim, during an interview with an English daily in March, had also said that he had been able to work well with Anwar as prime minister, compared with any past heads of government.

He was reported as saying that the government helmed by Anwar must live up to the high expectations of Malaysians in getting rid of corruption, which he described as a "cancer".

Sultan Ibrahim will replace Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah when the latter's reign ends on Jan 30.



Mujibu Abdul Muis