

Uplifting rural, impoverished urban areas a priority: PM

KOTA KINABALU: The federal government is determined to uplift the dignity of all states, particularly people living in rural, remote and urban poverty stricken areas, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said every state has its own challenges, but stressed that the voices of the people from all corners of the nation must be heard to ensure their needs are met.

"For Malaysia to succeed, whoever becomes prime minister, minister or leader must serve all Malaysians, regardless of their backgrounds," he said at the 2024 National Malaysia Day celebration at Padang Merdeka on Monday.

The event was officiated by the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah Tun Johar Mahiruddin, and attended by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor as well as Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg.

Anwar also gave an assurance that he would work tirelessly - alongside fellow leaders and the Malaysia Agreement Implementation Action Council Technical Committee to realise the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63).

"Although I acknowledge that there are challenges we must address, I am fortunate that upon assuming the role of prime



Anwar signing the *Buku Khas Hari Malaysia 2024* at the event in Kota Kinabalu on Monday. With him are (from left) Sabah Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister Datuk Christina Liew, Hajiji, Abang Johari and Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

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minister, my two trusted friends - the chief minister of Sabah and the premier of Sarawak - have cooperated, communicated openly and provided constructive criticism as friends.

"They have expressed their concerns and demands, but always with the spirit of collaboration to advance our beloved Malaysia. I hope other leaders will draw inspiration

from the spirit they have demonstrated."

Anwar said it would be inaccurate to claim that the top leadership of Sabah and Sarawak has never raised concerns or made claims regarding MA63, but such aspirations were expressed in the spirit of unity aimed at advancing Malaysia.

He underscored the need to celebrate Malaysia's international

successes, irrespective of race, ethnicity or religion.

He cited the recent triumphs of Malaysian athletes, including Bonnie Bunyau Gustin from Sarawak, who won a gold medal in powerlifting at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, and Eddy Bernard from Beluran in Sabah, who won a bronze in the men's 100m T44 (physical impairment) category at the same event. - Bernama