

# ANWAR: ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER

**PKR president also refutes allegations of nepotism, saying Nurul Izzah was delegates' choice**

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**P**KR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on party leaders to close ranks and work as a unified group, sharing the same resolve in thought and action.

He said this unity was crucial, even if party leaders held differing views.

In his winding-up speech, Anwar noted that former deputy president Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli and former vice-president Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad had long been committed to the party's struggles.

However, he said that once part of a collective, leaders, regardless of how long they had served, must be committed to working together.

"Of course, we know that as a collective, we represent various personalities and perspectives.

"But within a group, there must be a shared resolve to move for-



PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail at the PKR congress in Johor Baru yesterday.

**NSTP PIC BY NAJMI NOR'AZAM**

ward together.

"There must be a common platform, a *wahdatul fkr*, a unity of thought and shared values in our actions.

"Differences can exist within bounds, but ultimately, we must remain united in our struggles," he said.

On Friday night, Nurul Izzah Anwar, also a former vice-president, defeated Rafizi in the race for the deputy presidency, while Nik Nazmi was the only incumbent vice-president to lose his position.

Anwar, who is also Tambun member of parliament, said some of the narratives put forward by party leaders during the election campaign had gone too far and harmed the party.

"Nonetheless, we must be willing to accept criticism and respond with an open heart.

"I usually listen to everything carefully. If we are to lead the party, we must address its weaknesses," he said.

Meanwhile, Anwar dismissed claims of nepotism following his daughter Nurul Izzah's election as deputy president, stressing that it was PKR members — not him — who elected her.

He said that when he was imprisoned 26 years ago, his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, and Nurul Izzah had to step into politics.

Wan Azizah had to lead the party, whereas Nurul Izzah had to put her studies on hold to help with the party's struggle.

"At the time, the party had no funds, no machinery. Back then, no one raised the issue of family or nepotism.

"I want to raise this so that members can reflect and ask the long-serving members, what were our choices then? Who carried the torch?

"At that time, it was Dr Wan Azizah who did it, and Nurul Izzah was forced to leave her university studies," he said.

Anwar said in 1999, he chose Dr Wan Azizah to lead the party because he had to make a quick decision.

"But in Nurul Izzah's case, you, the PKR delegates, elected her as deputy president."

Separately, Anwar said PKR must be allocated a reasonable number of seats for the Sabah election.

The prime minister said he had discussed the matter with his allies, including Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Gabungan Rakyat Sabah chairman Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, the Sabah chief minister.

Anwar also instructed the party's new leadership, including Nurul Izzah and the four vice-presidents, to begin strengthening the party's machinery ahead of the polls.

He added that PKR's political bureau would hold a special meeting on the Sabah election on May 29.