

TECHNICAL TALKS

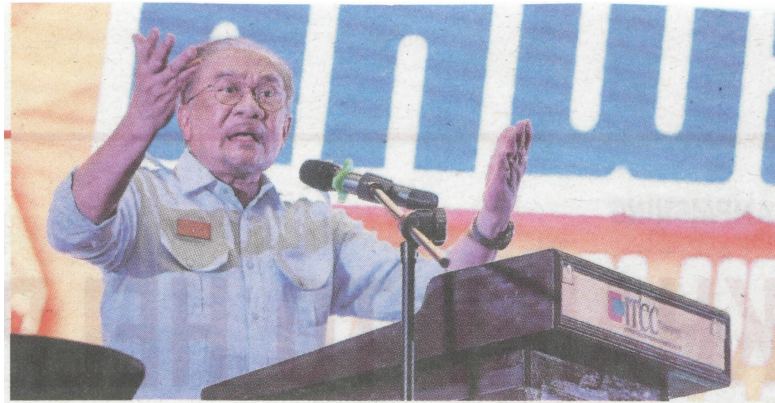
Treasury to discuss Sabah's 40pc entitlement tomorrow

KOTA KINABALU: A Federal Treasury officer will visit Sabah tomorrow to discuss the technical aspects of the 40 per cent revenue entitlement, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman, said the federal government would not appeal the 40 per cent entitlement.

"What we want is the implementation of the 40 per cent. We should not insult past leaders," he said, commenting on the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC) appealing the grounds of the judgment.

"The lawyer said there was an appeal. Read it first. We are not appealing the 40 per cent. That is



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the "Temu Anwar: Harapan Urang Muda Sabah" programme at ITCC Penampang yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ADAM ARININ

Sabah's right."

Anwar said this at the "Temu Anwar: Harapan Urang Muda Sabah" programme at ITCC Penampang near here.

On Oct 17, the Kota Kinabalu High Court ruled that it was unlawful for the Malaysian government to withhold Sabah's 40 per cent share of federal revenue derived from the state.

The court also issued a mandamus order compelling Putrajaya to review the revenue allocation with the Sabah government.

A few days ago, the A-GC filed a notice of appeal at the Kota Kinabalu High Court against part of the court's grounds of judgment.

The partial appeal was against several statements in the grounds, including allegations that the federal and state governments had abused their power and violated

constitutional obligations.

Anwar said the appeal was not against the 40 per cent entitlement, but solely against the grounds of judgment.

"What is being appealed is the judgment stating that governments since 1974 had violated the Federal Constitution. I do not want to be the current prime minister who is accused of insulting former prime ministers, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn..."

Anwar added that the judgment would also implicate Sabah's former chief ministers, including Tun Fuad Stephens and Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

"I am here to convey that message. I am not attacking anyone. What matters is ensuring our economy remains strong."

Present was Sabah PKR chief Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.