

'Reject self-serving leaders'

TUARAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has urged Sabahans to rise and reject leaders who enrich themselves at the expense of the poor.

Anwar, who is also Pakatan Harapan chairman, said yesterday the move is crucial to ensure harmony and safeguard the future of Sabahans, especially the youth.

"I want the people of Sabah to rise. Decide your future, especially for the young people.

"It's your future, and your future is to be decided by you, not by desperate politicians or some academicians who get angry, make noise but ignore the facts and sow hatred. While the rich at the top benefit, the poor at the bottom suffer."

Anwar was speaking at a gathering of local community leaders and entrepreneurs at the Cultural Centre of the Sabah Bajau Sama Association.

He said the people, especially the youth, need to judge the success of political leaders based on their track record while in office rather than after retirement or when they become active in campaigning during elections.

"To assess whether a chief minister is effective or whether the federal government and the prime minister are effective, evaluate them now while they are in power. How many leaders has Sabah produced? How many ministers from Sabah are in the federal government?

"When they are no longer in power or retired they say this is wrong, that is wrong, you haven't done this, you haven't done that. When you were in power what did you actually do?"

He described Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor as a leader who consistently works for the people and has never sought anything for personal or family gain.

"When I come to Sabah, before I even sit down, Hajiji points out our water supply isn't adequate, the electricity situation, the roads'. It shows Hajiji works to highlight the issues faced by the people of Sabah. We negotiate well and resolve problems."

Anwar said he respects and supports Hajiji for his consistent stance in maintaining strong relations with the federal government for the development of Sabah.

"He said: 'I form the state government, I support the federal government. We develop Sabah, we develop Malaysia', and to this day, he has not wavered from that position." - Bernama