

Elect reps who can work with federal govt: Anwar

> Cooperation with central administration essential for implementing development plans, Sabahans told

KOTA MARUDU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on Sabahans to elect representatives who can work closely with the federal government to accelerate development, improve infrastructure and safeguard the wellbeing of the people.

Speaking at the PMX Sayang Sabah gathering here yesterday, he highlighted the critical role of supporting Pakatan Harapan (PH) candidate Zaidi Jatil in Bandau in the state election.

He said a cooperative state-federal relationship is essential for implementing development plans effectively.

"Choose a representative who can negotiate with me and take care of Bandau. Once Zaidi wins, I will give him a month to list all the problems in Bandau. By the first week of January, at the latest, we will do our best to help resolve them."

Bandau, located about 124km from Kota Kinabalu, is seeing a 13-cornered contest, with reports claiming that there is a strong potential for a PH victory.

Anwar praised Sabahans for their wisdom in maintaining multi-ethnic harmony.

"Different ethnic groups, different skin colours, different religions - yet all cooperate. That's why Sabah remains peaceful," he said, adding that the state's stability and progress

are built on collaboration across ethnic, religious and cultural lines.

At a separate gathering in Tuaran with community leaders and entrepreneurs at the Cultural Centre of the Sabah Bajau Sama Association, he stressed the importance of strong federal-Sabah relations.

He warned that tensions or misunderstandings between the two levels of government could undermine development and the people's welfare.

"We need a strong federal government and a strong state government in Sabah that can work well together for the people.

"Under Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor's leadership, we have proven this works. It makes administration and development much smoother."

Anwar said the federal government is committed to honouring Sabah's claims under the Malaysia Agreement 1963, particularly the immediate return of 40% of the state's revenue.

"In Parliament, I announced that the federal government will implement it immediately. What is there to argue or be angry about?"

He added that the state government has been proactive in raising the matter through the proper channels and discussions

are ongoing.

Anwar also said the federal government is addressing key infrastructure challenges in Sabah, including water and electricity supply, Bernama reported.

He said multiple dam construction projects are underway and expected to be completed next year, and the regulatory authority over electricity has also been restored, with an allocation of RM1.2 billion to ensure continuity of the state's power supply.

Anwar highlighted several federal initiatives reflecting the government's commitment to citizens' welfare, including the highest civil service salary increase in history, raising the minimum wage to RM1,700, a 20% pay cut for ministers and his own decision not to take a salary as prime minister.

He also warned against politics based on hostility and hatred, saying that such approaches only cause suffering for the people while political leaders live in luxury.

"This is why Sabah needs leaders who can work constructively with the federal government, not leaders who divide."

He added that he has been the most frequent visiting federal leader to Sabah since taking office, underlining his commitment to the state's development.

He called on voters to elect representatives who are capable of addressing local issues, negotiating with the federal government and ensuring that development projects benefit the people directly.



Anwar and Hajiji with community leaders and entrepreneurs at the Cultural Centre of the Sabah Bajau Sama Association in Tuaran yesterday.

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