

'SACRIFICE AND COLLECTIVE EFFORT'

'REAL REFORM ENTAILS FIXING THE SYSTEM'

Struggle was never about personality cults or hero worship, says Anwar

JULIANNA JALALUDDIN
RAWANG
julianna.jalaluddin@nst.com.my

REFORM has never been about changing faces at the top, but about fixing the system to make it fairer, more just and accountable.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim reminded reformists that the struggle they began decades ago was rooted in sacrifice and collective effort, not personality cults or hero worship.

"The struggle was never about one minister or a few individu-

als," said Anwar, who is Pakatan Harapan chairman and PKR president.

He said this at the Hari Keluarga dan Rapat Reformis Kebangsaan at the Bukit Beruntung Golf Resort here.

"What we demanded was change to the system — *islah* — so that it is more just."

Addressing veteran reformists, or *otai*, Anwar said the reform movement was built on hardship and perseverance and should not be reduced to glorifying individuals.

He said they need to continue setting an example for younger generations by remembering the movement's original purpose.

Now in government, Anwar acknowledged that not all reform promises have been realised, conceding that governing is far more complex than campaigning.

Reform, he said, must be pursued "wisely, realistically and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim attending the Hari Keluarga dan Rapat Reformis Kebangsaan gathering at the Bukit Beruntung Golf Resort in Rawang yesterday. NSTP PIC BY RAIHANA MANSOR

with understanding", particularly within a coalition where parties have different priorities.

He added that holding power was the true test of reformists, noting that many leaders speak boldly when they are out of power but fail to act once they obtain it.

He said resistance to reform was inevitable, especially from those accustomed to corruption, abuse of power and interference in judicial independence.

"These groups would never be comfortable with genuine reform or an independent judiciary."

Anwar called for the reform movement to revive its old spirit of humility, solidarity and sacrifice, recalling the difficult conditions under which activists once struggled together.

"If we want real and lasting reform, we must stay united, organised and close to the grassroots."

He cautioned against narrow communal thinking, warning that framing national issues as affecting only one community risks undermining efforts to rebuild the country.

He said concerns raised by any

group must be viewed within a broader national context, rather than through racial or communal lenses.

"Some issues are quickly labelled as problems of one community.

"That way of thinking will not help us restore and rebuild Malaysia," he said.

He called on Malaysians of all backgrounds, including Malays, Chinese, Indians, Sabahans and Sarawakians, to bring forward their concerns while keeping sight of the larger national interest.