

Anwar: Seat allocations for Pakatan resolved
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By Himanshu Bhatt

SEBERANG PERAI (Sept 1, 2011): The issue of seat allocations between the three Pakatan Rakyat partners - DAP, PKR and PAS - has been resolved in most states with a few in the process of finalising negotiations.

Opposition head and PKR adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (pix) said it was decided at a national-level PR meeting last week that component parties in the states should continue pending negotiations and not make any announcements for the time being.

"We find there have been some statements from individuals, but it is not advisable to announce anything yet," he said at the Hari Raya open house hosted by Penang Deputy Chief Minister (II) Datuk Mansor Othman at Penanti here today.

"We have done far better this time than in 2008," he said, explaining that major parameters have already been resolved before the next elections, in contrast to the late agreements made before the last elections of March 2008.

Last week, DAP veteran Zulkifli Mohd Noor called on the party to retake several seats contested by PKR in the last general elections in Penang to give Malay DAP members the seats to contest instead.

Anwar said he had discussions with DAP secretary-general and Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng and Penang PAS commissioner Salleh Man on the matter, and claimed the issue has been resolved.

Anwar, who is Permatang Pauh MP, also said he was honoured that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak had chosen Permatang Pauh as the venue for the national 1Malaysia Hari Raya celebration on Sept 11.

"Of all the hundreds of constituencies they choose Permatang Pauh," he said. "I am encouraging all the people, including children, to go there and participate in the feast and get their 'duit Raya'," he said.

On another matter, Anwar said he endorsed an initiative by news network Al Jazeera to appeal for the international media to highlight the famine crisis in Somalia as it required massive international intervention.

He said despite the seriousness of the matter, bodies like the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Countries have "not done much" to help.

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