

Anwar stumps for Jui Meng in Segamat
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 — Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim rallied thousands of voters in Segamat last night to shore up support for PKR's Datuk Chua Jui Meng in Johor ahead of the May 5 polls.

Anwar urged voters in the Segamat federal seat to reject racial politics and a corrupt government, as Pakatan Rakyat (PR) fights for the key battleground state that could make or break the opposition pact's quest to win federal power in Election 2013.

"Segamat now has become a very important constituency," said Anwar in his speech at Kampung Abdullah in Segamat yesterday before a massive crowd that cheered and clapped throughout the night.

"We want to see the battle of Johor. Besides Gelang Patah, it's Segamat," he was recorded as saying in a clip uploaded on the Jelajah Merdeka Rakyat page on new.livestream.com.

Johor-born Chua faces the incumbent from the MIC, Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, the caretaker human resources minister who won the seat with a 2,991-vote majority in Election 2008.

Anwar called on voters to support Chua, admitting that the Johor PKR chief had worked in the Gelang Patah parliamentary constituency for years, but was sent to Segamat after DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang was fielded there against caretaker Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

"We want Chua Jui Meng to win big," said Anwar.

The PKR de facto leader also railed against the widening gap between the rich and the poor, saying: "We will change dirty history when the leaders used to steal the wealth of the people."

The majority of Segamat's 47,115 voters are the Chinese at 46 per cent, while Malays and Indians comprise 44 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

Chua told the crowd in Segamat that he was not there to be their "master", but to be their "servant".

"In the Health Ministry, the people that we upheld were the patients and their families. The rakyat has risen — Malays, Chinese and Indians," said the former health minister.

The MCA veteran won the Bakri federal seat in Johor by an overwhelming 19,059 votes in the 2004 polls, but stayed out of Election 2008.

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