

Anwar: Pakatan is the people, we will never surrender
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has pledged to fight the results of Sunday's election which he claimed had robbed millions of Malaysians of their rightful government.

In an emotionally-charged message today, the PKR advisor praised the thousands who had braved heavy rains and immovable traffic in the Klang Valley last night to protest against the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition and the Election Commission whom he condemned for resorting to "deceit, fraud and cheating to stay on to power [sic]."

"Our mission is clear. We will continue to protest against this fraud and this disgraceful act of denying the people their victory.

"In all these endeavours, I give you my word that the Pakatan Rakyat is totally with you. We will stand firmly by you all the way. We will never surrender," he said in a statement today.

Initial findings post-polls have shown the PKR and its DAP and PAS allies to have collectively won the popular vote with a 51 per cent score, compared to the BN which netted only 46.5 per cent according to the Election Commission, casting the ruling coalition into a minority government position for only the second time since the country's founding in 1957.

The BN's predecessor, the Alliance had similarly formed a minority government following the 1969 general election.

More than 50,000 people of all ages, races and classes were believed to have attended the PKR-organised rally in the open-air city stadium in Kelana Jaya, Selangor last night, filling the 25,000-seater bleachers and crowding onto its track and field as well besides circling the grounds outside.

Many were seen dressed in black mourning the "death of democracy", in response to Anwar's request and ignoring warning from the authorities that they may be arrested for participating in an illegal assembly despite a recent law allowing for peaceful assemblies.

The Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) prime minister-hopeful lavished further praise on the crowd, for their peaceful demonstration of their allegiance to King and country by singing the national anthem and casting aside racial differences to show they were a nation united.

"They say that you gathered because you cannot accept defeat while they have won legitimately.

"This is a gross insult. It is also a blatant lie. The truth is your victory has been stolen from you. How can that be acceptable?

"It is they who cannot accept defeat and have resorted to this deceit, fraud and cheating to stay on to power," Anwar said.

He gave an assurance that the participants "are on the side of truth and truth will triumph

over falsehood.”

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