

In Lembah Pantai, Anwar makes final pitch for Nurul Izzah
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 — Pakatan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim lent his star power to daughter Nurul Izzah Anwar today, in a massive rally here to help her retain the Lembah Pantai federal seat in tomorrow's polls.

Thousands flooded Kerinchi here on the eve of the 13th general election, with many sounding air horns and waving PKR, DAP and PAS flags as both Nurul Izzah and Anwar urged the multi-racial crowd to vote PR into federal power.

"Tomorrow, we will bankrupt Umno!" Anwar bellowed, as the crowd burst into cheers.

"The problem with this country is poor governance. The problem with this country is abuse of power. The problem with this country is racism. The problem with this country is endemic corruption," added Anwar with his trademark charisma.

Nurul Izzah, Anwar's 32-year-old daughter, faces an uphill battle in defending her seat against Barisan Nasional's (BN) Datuk Raja Nong Chik Zainal Abidin, who helmed the federal territories and urban wellbeing ministry for the previous five years.

Raja Nong Chik is tipped to win Lembah Pantai with support from the predominantly-Malay working class, after implementing various housing projects in lower-income sections of the constituency such as Pantai Dalam and helping residents purchase flats there.

The Lembah Pantai Umno chief also has the advantage of more election machinery and a larger campaign budget, besides controlling the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

Nurul Izzah, however, commands support among the middle-class who live in the affluent Bangsar neighbourhood side-by-side with the urban poor in Pantai Dalam.

Anwar said today that the longer Raja Nong Chik, BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, were in government, the more the people would lose out, accusing the coalition of widespread corruption during its unbroken hold on power since independence.

"On the sixth of May, God willing, we will form the new government. On the seventh of May, we will announce a drop in the price of petrol," said Anwar, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Administrative clerk Nik Aizan Husin, who was holding a white flag with PAS, PKR and DAP logos, said that she would vote for Nurul Izzah, calling her a "great" and "simple" person who often visited the grassroots.

"We want to fight blue," the 42-year-old Kerinchi flat resident told The Malaysian Insider, referring to BN's official colour.

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