

Racism won't stop the will of Malaysians, says Anwar
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BY CLARA CHOOI

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim warned his political foes today that using racism to frighten Malaysians away from Pakatan Rakyat (PR) would never work, claiming nothing short of “divine intervention” would stop the groundswell of support for the federal opposition pact.

The PR de facto leader, who has vowed never to surrender until PR claims its place in Putrajaya, repeated his conviction that it had been through fraud and cheating that saw Barisan Nasional (BN) “rob” its victory.

Anwar (picture) said the recent incessant raising of racial slurs by top BN leaders and BN-controlled media was an attempt by the pact to divert the attention of Malaysians away from the allegedly fraudulent polls.

“Let the Umno corrupters be warned: the suppression of the people’s may work temporarily but like a can with a limited shelf life, it will not work forever.

“That’s because when the will of the people prevails, nothing short of divine intervention can stop it,” he wrote in a blog posting today.

“You cannot put the people to sleep forever. Sooner or later they will awaken. On 5th May, they signalled their awakening with a resounding vote for Pakatan — and no matter what Najib and Umno choose to call it, there is no doubt in anyone’s mind that this is a Malaysian tsunami.

“And as Black 505 shows, it will not stop until our ends are reached,” he said, using a now often-used term to refer to the May 5 polls as a day that signifies the “death of democracy”.

Election 2013 saw BN’s over half-a-century rule continue unbroken when the ruling pact returned to power with a narrow-margin with 133 federal seats to PR’s 89 seats, just 21 seats more than the 112 needed to form a simple-majority government.

But more significantly was BN’s loss of the overall popular vote for the first time since 1969, garnering just under 48 per cent to PR’s 51 per cent, a point that the federal opposition blames on gerrymandering and vote-rigging.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in his victory speech in the early hours of May 6, said it had been a “Chinese tsunami” that caused BN to bleed more seats than it did in Election 2008, a move that triggered widespread criticisms against the prime minister for using race to characterise the vote trend.

Analysts suggested otherwise, noting that the popular vote showed that large numbers of Malay voters had opted to boot BN from Putrajaya. The trend, they added, had rather reflected an urban-rural divide and not a Malay-vs-Chinese vote.

Agreeing, Anwar said the polls numbers extrapolated from independent sources had clearly indicated an increase in the number of votes from all races for PR, apart from the consequential increase in the number of PR Malay lawmakers elected to office.

Anwar alleged that BN had ordered its "supremacist minions" to go on the warpath against the Chinese community, the Malays and all others who had not given their vote to BN.

I call on all right-minded Malaysians — be they Malay, Chinese, Indian, Dayak or Kadazan or any other ethnic group — to reject the racist Barisan Nasional because another moment longer with this evil coalition is another moment longer with a party that is doomed to bring this nation to ruin. — Anwar Ibrahim

Anwar noted that the Chinese-majority DAP has been labelled a chauvinist party, the Malay-Muslim-dominated PAS branded a traitor to race and religion and his PKR, a multiracial party with a strong Malay-Muslim presence, has been ridiculed as a proxy to the DAP.

"With me taking the grand prize of being Public Enemy No. 1 and traitor to King and country," Anwar said.

But the former deputy prime minister, who has put his retirement plans on hold after the allegedly fraudulent Election 2013 insists his and his team's suspicions are right, and called on Malaysians to reject BN, a party which he claimed would only lead the country to ruin.

"I call on all right-minded Malaysians — be they Malay, Chinese, Indian, Dayak or Kadazan or any other ethnic group — to reject the racist Barisan Nasional because another moment longer with this evil coalition is another moment longer with a party that is doomed to bring this nation to ruin," he said.

In anticipation of the likely outcome of the polls, Anwar had deliberately declared a PR victory just two hours after the count began on May 5, explaining later that the move was to show Malaysians that he knew BN would make itself victors despite losing the popular vote.

Today while Team Najib is finding its footing back in the hallowed halls of Putrajaya, Anwar and his troops have been organising mammoth rallies nationwide to prove their indignation at the polls outcome is shared by a large segment of Malaysia.

They have held three such events so far — in Selangor, Penang and Perak — each one drawing ten of thousands of people, and will be moving on the Kuantan, Pahang, tomorrow and in Johor on Thursday.

Anwar urged Malaysians against being complicit to Umno and BN's "evil" spread of racial discontent and harmony post-Election 2013, claiming it was a moral imperative to stand with PR, which he said was the "right side of history".

"Here's our clarion call to you: stand up and be counted. Stand up for Bangsa Malaysia," he said as he rallied Malaysians of all creed and colours to back what he described as a multiracial PR pact.

"This indeed is a moral imperative. Pakatan leaders are committed to this creed to unify all Malaysians.

"We have come together with the people by dint of our unshakeable sense of conviction not for power or office but for the well-being and future of our beloved nation."

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