

Strengthening Islam is top of Anwar's must-do list in Selangor

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Improving the position of Islam in Selangor would be Anwar Ibrahim's (pic) top priority should he win the Kajang by-election and be part of the state government.

Next on his must-attend-to list would be economic matters and how to assist Selangor residents in dealing with daily financial demands.

Anwar gave an indication of his priorities at a tea-party for a couple of hundred supporters in Kampung Sungai Kantan, Kajang at the home of PKR's Penanti assemblyperson Norlela Ariffin.

Quoting the Quran about Muslims respecting other religions, Anwar saw no contradiction in being a Muslim and wanting Islam's stature raised and its teachings disseminated, co-existing with the followers of other religions exercising their rights of religious belief and practice.

"To me, this is the priority in Selangor. I have always said this. Even at the church yesterday, I said I am Muslim and I want the mosques to be filled with people and Islamic preaching (dakwah) to be expanded.

"I want Islam's stature (martabat) to be raised, without curtailing the rights of followers of other religions," he was reported as saying by Malaysiakini.

The opposition leader also made mention of the traditions of the nine Javanese imams or Wali Songo who expanded Islam in the Malay archipelago without creating conflict or violence.

This reference prompted a member of the audience, an imam, to offer his Wali Songo amulet to Anwar. The opposition leader wore the amulet for the remainder of his speech, and returned it to the elderly man after.

Anwar also said that his second priority, if he were to win the polls, is to look into economic matters.

He said that the prudent management of the Khalid-administration meant that the state has spare cash and this could be used to assist the everyday lives of people in Selangor.

Asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's claim that a vote for him would be a vote for USA, Anwar declined rising to the bait, dismissively putting the ex-PM down and away by saying: "I don't know whether to laugh or pity him."

Another speaker at the tea-party, DAP's Kepong MP Tan Seng Giaw said that there were undeniable weaknesses in the Selangor administration which BN is taking advantage of.

He suggested Anwar could be helpful to Menteri Besar Abdul Khalid Ibrahim in many ways, including resolving the problem of water shortage and the fractious relation with Syabas. - February 17, 2014.

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anwars-must-do-list-in-selangor