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'Anwar desperate to be PM'

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BUTTERWORTH: The Barisan Nasional has upped the ante and fired salvos at Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, branding him a desperate politician whose credibility is on the line.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Anwar had been going round telling the whole world he was the prime minister-in-waiting and would form the Federal Government come Sept 16.

Najib said Anwar was all talk and most of what he said was not backed up with facts.

Citing a host of examples, Najib said Anwar had made all kinds of claims, such as BN members of parliament switching over to Pakatan Rakyat.

"They have all said that they contested on BN tickets and would remain with us. So where is Anwar's credibility as a leader?" he asked.

Najib said Anwar had also made

other outrageous claims, including that there would be assassination attempts on him.

Anwar was going about his business giving ceramah without any hint that he was a frightened man whose life was threatened, he

said.

Najib said Anwar had made similar claims previously, including allegations that he was exposed to arsenic poisoning when he was imprisoned in 1999.

Najib was speaking at a meet-

the-people session and the launch of the Permatang Pauh BN by-election machinery here yesterday.

Also present was Umno information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

Najib called on Permatang Pauh voters not to be swayed by Anwar's claims and urged them to make their vote count by electing a representative who could truly represent them.

At an earlier function, Najib denied that the BN was exploiting the sodomy case against Anwar.

Commenting on Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan's action to swear on the Quran that he had been sodomised by Anwar, Najib said it had raised a lot of debate in the constituency.

Those with the BN and fence-sitters were inclined to believe Mohd Saiful's oath, he said.

"But there are also those who are questioning his action. It depends on which side of the political fence they are leaning on."



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