

'Anwar's stand abnormal'

FUNDAMENTAL:

Constitution's sanctity must be preserved, says DPM

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim's stand on matters such as personal freedom, upholding of the Constitution and Bumiputera rights, are not in sync with the understanding of ordinary Malaysians.

Therefore, the public have firm ground to reject his leadership because of his "abnormal" principles.

Barisan Nasional deputy chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin made this assertion yesterday, saying Anwar and his supporters should not question such fundamental matters.

"For instance, we have accepted our (Federal) Constitution as being set the way it is because of our former leaders' far-sightedness. Matters such as the rights of the Malays and Bumiputera, Islam as the country's official religion and the national language have been accepted as the Constitution's core."

Muhyiddin, who is also deputy prime minister, was speaking to civil servants at a function at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang.

"We shouldn't attempt to change



Barisan Nasional deputy chairman **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** meeting civil servants at a function at **Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang** yesterday. Pic by Mohd Yusni Ariffin



KAJANG
BY-ELECTION

these principles just because of pressure from those who feel that the contents of our Constitution are archaic and not up to current standards."

He said Anwar's insistence that Malaysia's law against unnatural sexual acts was archaic during an interview with foreign media before the 13th General Election was an example of the latter's "unnatural leadership principle".

He said BN, in particular Umno, would defend the Constitution against any element that tried to alter its principles. Muhyiddin, who is also Umno deputy president, called on the people, particularly voters in Kajang, to not

gamble their future based on emotions, referring to Anwar's sodomy conviction by the Court of Appeal.

The Kajang by-election tomorrow will see a straight fight between BN's Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun and PKR president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is Anwar's wife.

"I have been with Anwar in the past (when he was in Umno) before he joined the wrong camp. He is, indeed, an excellent orator and good at delivering fiery speeches, even now. But despite this talent, we have to consider his principles in upholding what he would like us to believe are his struggles," said Muhyiddin.

Earlier, during a meet-the-people

programme at the Prison Department's mosque here, he called on Muslims to guard the Constitution and uphold Islam as the country's official religion.

He said he was concerned by attempts by certain quarters to dispute the Constitution, adding that the future of Muslims might be at stake.

"It has been enshrined in the Constitution that Islam is the official religion of the country. We must protect the Constitution, which also stipulates the rights of other races and religions."

Muhyiddin joined a congregation of more than 3,000 people to perform Friday prayers at the mosque.