

Anwar issue played out on over 30 Internet sites

PETALING JAYA: Supporters of the Government and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim have stepped up their campaign through the Internet with over 30 websites being set up.

Although most of the contents are questionable, particularly when it comes to accuracy, the websites have recorded high hits among Internet surfers.

While supporters of Anwar were the first to resort to cyberspace following his sacking from the Government on Sept 2, three anti-Anwar websites have been set up to counter the anti-government allegations.

The most prominent is *AnwarGate - Conspiracy by a Man Possessed to Become the Next Prime Minister*, with a sub-heading *Rebuttal Facts and Other Comparative Opinion* at <http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/5945/Anwar/conspire.htm>.

The contents include write-ups on the "unknown" Anwar, his political history and failure as finance minister.

The other two are *AnwarTruth* at <http://members.xoom.com/anwartruth/whatisnew.html> and the *Real Anwar Ibrahim* at <http://meltingpot.fortunecity.com/georgia/6/>.

Contents are mostly news clippings and copies of affidavits by the Attorney-General, the Prisons Director-General and the police, all in relation to Anwar's court case.

The most sought-after book *50 Dalil Mengapa Anwar Tidak Boleh Jadi PM* (50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become PM) is also on the Internet for downloading.

It is available at <http://members.xoom.com/boneka/> and a chapter-by-chapter version is available on the *AnwarTruth* homepage.

There are also chat rooms on political issues, most of them dominated by pro-Anwar contributors, including the Malaysian Chat Room at <http://www.siam.net/malaysia/index.shtml>.

The official and first among the pro-Anwar websites is *Anwar Online* at http://members.tripod.com/~Anwar_Ibrahim/, containing news and articles in Bahasa Malaysia and English.

Others include *Laman Reformasi* at <http://members.tripod.com/~mahazalim/>, *Anwaribrahim.org* (<http://www.anwaribrahim.org>), *Anwar Ibrahim One* (<http://anwaribrahim1.com>) and *Justice for Anwar and Reformasi* (<http://members.tripod.com/~Anwarite/>).

Contents are mostly about alleged injustices against Anwar and alleged police brutality against violent street demonstrators.

Suara Mahasiswa (<http://members.tripod.com/~suara-mahasiswa/>) keeps churning out religious tracts in support of Anwar while condemning Dr Mahathir.