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Anwar holds two illegal assemblies in KL

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - In what is clearly seen as an attempt to incite the people, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today held two illegal assemblies in Kuala Lumpur - one at the National Mosque and the other at Dataran Merdeka.

Anwar took advantage of the weekend crowd and events lined up at Dataran Merdeka in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games to hold the gatherings.

Despite calling Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a dictator and accusing him of being afraid of a challenge, Anwar was allowed to go ahead with the two illegal assemblies uninterrupted.

The Federal Reserve Unit arrived at 3.15pm at Dataran Merdeka but decided to stay away by the time Anwar reached there from the National Mosque.

The restraint shown by policemen on duty was commendable despite some of Anwar supporters being clearly belligerent.

However, Anwar, seeing several policemen on crowd control duty at the National Mosque, taunted the police.

He said that in South Africa some "tyrannical" police officers were put on trial after the collapse of the apartheid regime.

"Don't use the Special Branch to threaten anyone.

"Today, I am issuing a warning - police protecting the independence will be supported," he said.

Anwar reiterated that when he was in the Government "we had carried out many low-cost housing projects for low-ranking police personnel".

This has been a recurring theme in many of his speeches throughout the country in the last few days.

Anwar, fashioning himself now as leader of the people, said he had no qualms about not getting red-carpet treatment anymore and that he had been "quickly kicked out" for championing the fate of the downtrodden.

He then asked the crowd questions about Dr Mahathir knowing that his supporters among the crowd would make negative remarks about the Prime Minister.

Anwar was accused in court yesterday by two of his closest friends of sodomising them.

Reminiscent of his earlier days as a student protester, when he sometimes used the mosque as a refuge from the authorities, Anwar spoke from a balcony at the mosque.

In what is seen as an attempt to portray the illegal assemblies as a mass movement, some of his supporters were seen carrying the national flag.

And Negri Sembilan Umno Youth chief Ruslan Kassim, addressing the crowd before Anwar, told people who brought many national flags to the gathering to distribute them widely.

Later, Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail - who lately had been portraying herself after the images of Cory Aquino and Hillary Clinton - read out what was called the Sept 20 declaration at the Dataran Merdeka.

It, among others, called for the resignation of the Prime Minister.

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