

21/09/1998

Anwar: Rebel without a cause

ANWAR Ibrahim, the man who was accused in court yesterday by two of his friends of sodomising them had certainly gone too far. In a clear attempt to incite the people against the Government, Anwar today held two illegal assemblies - one at the national mosque and later at Dataran Merdeka. He took advantage of the weekend crowd coupled with those who were there for the Queen's visit. These assemblies come hot on the heels of other assemblies he has held around the country. In addition to this, encouraging and inciting supporters to march to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's residence is definitely a treacherous act.

He knowingly and deliberately violated the laws and continued to incite the people. He taunted the authorities and police. He has also tried to incite hatred among the people for the very Government in which he was once a high ranking member. His followers were also clearly belligerent and had intimidated the authorities and police to arrest him. Such a show of rowdyism and vandalism will not endear the Malaysian public to Anwar, much less gain any support.

Despite his open challenge to the police, the police must be commended for the restraint they have shown. They have also acted responsibly and have helped ensure security, law and order. Malaysians and visitors to the country have not been inconvenienced even though this has been one of the objectives of Anwar via his illegal public rallies.

What is his problem? His actions demonstrate his gross disrespect and contempt for the people besides the law and order of a civil society. There is only one problem - Anwar's questionable character. The problem of Anwar, really, is Anwar himself. He is at war with himself. He is a rebel without a cause. The fact that two of his closest friends have confessed, in court, that he sodomised them makes him a desperate man. This makes him to want to divert attention of the general public away from his personal and despicable behaviour.

The problems faced by Anwar today are those of his own making. His fall from grace is also his own doing - a Greek tragedy in its truest form. He is a desperate man. But it does not mean that he can do what he likes and disrupt the peace and harmony in the country.

No one is above the law. And no one should be allowed to wreak havoc and undermine the social fabric of society. No one should be allowed to threaten the very foundation of the nation that has been built over the years with blood, hard work, sweat and tears. The police, like the rest of the people, have taken enough of the diversions and nonsense from Anwar. He has been deliberately trying to create chaos when the country is playing host to visitors, including Queen Elizabeth II who is here to close the Commonwealth Games. How can Anwar, who claims to be "the leader of the people" be one when he does not even respect the law of the land himself? A leader of the people has to lead by example. But he has been trying to disrupt law and order in the country since the Games started last week. How irresponsible can one be? This is the time when all energies should be channelled towards reviving the economy, to ensure that the livelihood of the people is not disrupted and undermined.

Anwar's actions only go to show, and indeed prove, the irresponsible and the wicked nature of a drowning and utterly selfish man. Would Malaysians accept such an individual as their leader, who will definitely lead them down the path of destruction, lawlessness and irresponsibility? The answer

must surely be a resounding NO.
(END)