

20 SEP 1998

Anwar-Roadshow

ANWAR SPEAKS IN BATU PAHAT

BATU PAHAT, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim continued with his reforms roadshow by lashing out at Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before his supporters here last night.

Anwar, who received a big setback yesterday when two men pleaded guilty in the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court to allowing themselves to be sodomised by him, claimed that he had been slandered.

He said he would continue to defend himself and likened Dr Mahathir's leadership to that of the Gestapo (German intelligence agency during World War II noted for its ruthlessness) and the communists.

Anwar said that if he was investigated, the same should be down to Dr Mahathir and other Umno leaders who he claimed had abused their powers.

About 10,000 people attended the ceramah at the house of one of Anwar's friends in Taman Koperasi.

Anwar described Dr Mahathir as "ketua tarzan Malaysia" (Malaysia's chief Tarzan) and his friends as "apes and elephants".

He reiterated his call to Dr Mahathir to step down as prime minister now before he is forced to do so by the people.

Anwar also asked the DAP, PAS and other opposition parties to join him in upholding the truth.

On Dr Mahathir's statement that he had shown that he did not love Umno by befriending the DAP, Anwar said he was only sympathising with DAP MP for Kota Melaka Lim Guan Eng who has been imprisoned for 18 months for false publication and sedition.

Anwar also said that he was prepared to swear his innocence on the Quran but had been advised not to do so by the ulamas.

-- BERNAMA

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