

07 FEB 1999

Demonstration-Toll

REFORMASI SUPPORTERS USING TOLL ISSUE TO DEMONSTRATE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- Supporters of the so called reformasi movement used the toll issue to stage demonstrations in the Klang Valley today.

Some 300 of them gathered at the Jalan Kuching Toll Plaza at 9am, shouting slogans of "reformasi" and "Mahathir Undur".

Apart from posters and banners calling for the abolition of toll charges, they also hung Social Justice Movement (Adil) banners which demanded justice for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Irene Fernandez, Lim Guan Eng and Zainur Zakaria.

The demonstration also drew the participation of PAS, DAP, Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) supporters as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

DAP secretary general Lim Kit Siang, Kubang Kerian MP Mohamad Sabu and Gagasan Demokrasi Rakyat chairman were among those present at the demonstration which lasted about an hour.

The demonstrators later went to the Jalan Pahang Toll Plaza at 10am with their number swelling to 500 after 30 minutes.

There the demonstrators distributed leaflets protesting the toll rate hike as well as selling tags written with "Keadilan untuk Anwar (Justice For Anwar)", "Tidak bersalah (Not guilty) and "Bebaskan pemimpin kami (Free our leader).

Demonstrations against the toll rate hike were also held at the Damansara-Kepong, Cheras, 9th Mile Cheras, Sri Gombak, The Mines, Damansara and Klang toll plazas.

Recently the government announced an increase of 0.75 sen per km in toll rate for the North-South Highway, making it 11.25 sen per km, effective after the Chinese New Year.

Other highways involved are the Elite, Shah Alam-Klang and Kulim-Butterworth expressways.

Meanwhile in PERAK, DAP supporters held similar demonstrations at the Kuala Kangsar and Kamunting toll plazas.

Some 150 of them gathered at the Kamunting Toll plaza at 9am with 20 more at the Kuala Kangsar Toll Plaza.

In MELAKA, some 80 PAS and DAP members gathered at the Ayer Keroh and Simpang Ampat toll plazas at 10am to protest the toll increase.

State DAP chairman Sim Tong Him who led the demonstration in Ayer Keroh said they would continue with their protests every week beginning today.

-- BERNAMA

TM ZUL AAM