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Strange allegations at arrest `anniversary' ceramah

PETALING JAYA, Tues. - Last night's Keadilan ceramah commemorating a year into the arrest of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, provided an extensive catalogue of strange allegations against the Government.

Eight speakers took turns to spew vilifications before 5,000 angry rakyat, crammed into a football field in Kampung Medan.

Apart from the usual claims of police brutality, Government wastage of public resources and high-level conspiracies revolving around Anwar, the speakers made some claims which have so far escaped public attention.

There were allegations that were rightly racist and derogatory, as when Perak deputy head Hamdan Taha accused Umno Youth acting chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein of being the head of a Bangladeshi Transvestite Movement.

Others bordered on the bizarre, when Hamdan claimed that the recent three-day overcast weather in Kuala Lumpur was attributed to the sadness of the people on Anwar's fate, reaching up all the way to heaven.

Some were impractical. Assistant Secretary Low Chee Chong posed two suggestions based on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that an Opposition Government would not be able to provide development to the rakyat.

Low said if that was the case, Opposition constituents should be exempted from tax, or that the Government should return all tax revenue from them.

Parti Keadilan Nasional deputy youth leader Mustaffa Kamil Ayub claimed the recent alleged arsenic poisoning of Anwar was a high-level conspiracy and the fifth in a chain of attempts to murder Anwar.

Mustaffa said the attempt began with a 1997 incident in Sungai Petani, Kedah, when a helicopter supposed to have been boarded by Anwar burst into flames.

The second and third also involved similar helicopter crash incidences. The fourth was when Anwar suffered injuries in police detention.

Perak Youth chief Hanafiah Man meanwhile refuted the Prime Minister's statement that there would be chaos if the Opposition won.

He also said Keadilan did not need pop singers to entice the masses to their ceramah.

Youth chief Mohd Ezam Mohd Nor and party president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail then wrapped up the evening's proceedings, but the highlight of the ceramah came from a very unlikely speaker.

Six-year-old Nurul Hana Anwar, Anwar's youngest daughter was hoisted up to the podium. She delivered a sajak written by Dinsman, where an unnamed ustaz was exhorted to auction off all allegedly wasteful Government projects.

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