

Messy meltdown of Malaysia's messiah
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When PKR President Wan Azizah proclaimed the party's Ketua Umum Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim as a god's gift to Malaysia, she certainly did not expect her words would backfire on her in such humiliating fashion.

After anointing and elevating her husband to such Olympian heights, it must be hugely embarrassing for her to see the PM-wannabe coming crashing down unceremoniously after being exposed by Wikileaks for some decidedly unsaintly deeds.

An Australian daily had reported that the Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore government and the Australian intelligence service, (ONA, Office of National Assessment) were convinced of Anwar's guilt in the on-going sodomy trials.

It must have been deeply distressing for Anwar to learn the fact that the Singapore government reportedly even had evidence the former DPM indeed had indulged in unnatural acts.

It is well known that many Malaysians, especially Chinese Malaysians, have highest respect for capabilities and viewpoints of both Lee Kuan Yew and the Singaporean government.

Kuan Yew is revered as a living legend while the Singaporean government is acknowledged to be world class in terms of efficiency and capabilities.

As such, many Malaysians who previously had dismissed both Sodomy 1 and 2 as nothing but sham trials and a political conspiracy to derail Anwar's attempt to oust the incumbent Barisan Nasional (BN) from the seat of power, are now starting to revise their opinions.

This expose by Wikileaks will indeed be a game changer for Malaysian politics not just for 2010 or 2011 but for many years to come.

This means that Anwar Ibrahim's dream of being the next prime minister has effectively extinguished and his march to Putrajaya has turned into a hasty, panicky retreat.

In the light of this shocking revelation it is unlikely that many Malaysians would want to take the risk of voting for Anwar as it would result in Singapore government having a strong leverage over him with its reported possession of evidence of Anwar's wrongdoing.

This also means that the Singaporeans would be able to dictate whatever terms they want Malaysia to comply with and hold country to ransom economically and diplomatically, if Anwar becomes the PM.

The comical damage control actions by PKR's Director of Strategy Tian Chua, a man better known for biting cops than effective PR management, has only served to make the party look intellectually obtuse and permanently stuck in denial and defensive mode.

Things would not look as bleak for Anwar had this happened to be an isolated incident. But 2010 has been a truly an annus horribilis for the ex-DPM. It is highly unlikely that Anwar

would look back at 2010 with much affection or nostalgic feelings.

This is a massive contrast to the highs of 2008 and 2009. From the moment Anwar was triumphantly re-elected as a Member of Parliament and then as the Opposition Leader, Pakatan, PKR and Anwar were on an unstoppable momentum and ascendancy.

It looked as though Anwar was destined to be the Chief Executive of Malaysia, a position that he deeply covets.

However a series of scandals, illogical and self-serving decision making and shockingly weak leadership coupled with the elevation of Najib Tun Razak as the new PM heralded a sharp reversal of fortune.

As PKR suffered setback after setback in by-elections and its lawmakers and leaders started to defect to BN, Anwar's charisma passed its sell-by date and exposed his inability to manage the party or even appear sounding or behaving rationally at times.

The nadir for PKR came ironically when the party wanted to showcase its democratic credentials. Anwar's grand plan of having a mass party election, supposedly the first in South East Asia, turned into a political own goal and made the party a global laughing stock.

While the intention was noble , the outcome was anything but as the party headed to the slippery slope to implosion and oblivion.

No other election in the Malaysia's history was as blighted by scandals, allegations of bribery, mass manipulations, fist fights, vandalism and complete disregard for and trampling of every principles of democracy.

In short, the PKR election made a mockery of the electoral and democratic processes and only served to expose its own weaknesses.

It created chaos and disunity within the party, made respected leaders leave in disgust and alienated some of its most ardent of its civil society supporters and many neutral-minded Malaysians.

In the end Anwar Ibrahim the Opposition Leader and the potential PM of Malaysia, did not even contest in the elections but assumed the post of Ketua Umum, a post that neither the party's constitution nor democratic principles allow.

With his wife being the president, his daughter one of the VPs and his trusted lieutenant the deputy president, PKR hardly looked like a poster child for a model democratic and reform party but dangerously resembling dynastical parties in repressive nations such as North Korea.

Instead of being of a symbol of reform, PKR now resembles a giant Ponzi scheme while Anwar himself looks more Madoff than the Messiah we had hoped for.

The question in the minds of Malaysians is this: If Anwar can't even manage his own family and party, can he be relied upon to manage the nation and steward it to greater heights? To me, the answer, based on his track record, is a resounding "NO".

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