

Pakatan vs BN: 12,000 turn to prayer
Malaysiakini.com
January 10, 2011

In a show of force, some 12,000 PAS members turned up at a special prayer session last night to seek divine intervention 'to save the country from BN'.

They also prayed that Pakatan Rakyat will be able to overcome the turmoil in Selangor and in the Anwar Ibrahim sodomy trial.

"We are together with Selangor Menteri Besar (Abdul) Khalid Ibrahim in defending (the state) against BN," said PAS vice-president Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, who opened the session held at the Melawati Stadium in Shah Alam.

The event began at around 7pm with those assembled performing Maghrib prayers together, after which PAS deputy spiritual advisor Harun Din delivered a talk.

The special prayer session followed the Isyak prayers led by PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

Those who attended included Anwar, Khalid, PKR deputy president Azmin Ali, Shah Alam parliamentarian Khalid Samad, PAS deputy president Nasharuddin Md Isa.

"This prayer is to Allah to save our country, to solve the problems plaguing Selangor and the attacks against Anwar in the sodomy trial, as well as to give us victory in the upcoming general election," according to an announcement.

PAS spiritual advisor Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat was delayed enroute but was wheeled into the stadium in a wheelchair after the prayer, arriving to the rousing cheers and shouts of "Takbir" from the crowd.

The floor was packed with 5,000 people - mainly PAS members - while thousands of others followed the session from seats in the gallery above.

'Room for politics in Islam'

In his speech, Hadi hit out at those who claim that religion and politics do not jive.

"Those who say that there shouldn't be any connection between prayers and politics are thick and dense," he said.

"We follow in the footsteps of the prophets who were not only preached the religion but were also heads of states."

Hadi contended that there is room in religion for politics provided that it is done within the tenets of Islam.

Nik Aziz also touched on the matter: "Allah created everything, there is nothing new that man made. All belongs to God.

"As such it is only fitting we synchronise our government with those that is amenable to principles of God's religion."

Khalid addressed the crowd, recounting his ordeal at the receiving end of the BN attack against his state.

He repeated his accusations that it is Umno that is committing treason against the royalty.

Anwar was appreciative of PAS support, saying that Pakatan is ready to fight BN not only in Selangor but in Tenang and in the next general election.

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