

**Applause for Rosmah at PKR ceramah**  
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Despite it being a PKR ceramah, last night's maiden run of the party's leadership roadshow saw the premier's wife Rosmah Mansor receiving the most applause, or perhaps somewhat polite jeers, from the thousand-strong crowd of opposition supporters.

Rosmah's name was constantly on the lips of the eight Pakatan leaders who spoke at the party's ceramah in Petaling Jaya, though mostly to her disadvantage, as the speakers took turns to make jibes at her expense, to the laughter of the crowd.

Mostly they made fun of her continual claim to be the 'first lady' of Malaysia despite clear protocol and conventions against it.

"They say that BN is the government of Bini Najib," said PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim, who spoke at the event, inducing more laughter.

Shouts of *beruk*, the Malay word for simians like baboons and monkeys, kept being heard as overenthusiastic supporters reacted to Anwar's pun on the government's alphabet soup of programs like ETP and NKRA, equating it to K-E-R-A or *kera*, another Malay word for the simian species.

Other speakers included PAS Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad, DAP Puchong parliamentarian Gobind Singh Deo, Lembah Pantai parliamentarian Nurul Izzah Anwar, Seri Setia assemblyperson Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, Selangor deputy speaker Haniza Talha, Petaling Jaya Selatan MP Hee Loy Sian and Batu parliamentarian Tian Chua.

A picture of Rosmah was constantly flashed on the backdrop of the stage with less than flattering captions as each of them commented on her.

But the premier's wife was not the only one at the receiving end of barbs at last night's polished and well-organised event which made use of concert-grade loudspeakers and a sophisticated back-lit big screen projector as a stage backdrop.

**Montage of opposition 'favourites'**

Also part and parcel of the well-scripted and tightly-run event were montages of various opposition 'favourites' being projected onto the big screen.

Those that made the cut included a sinister-looking Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak with snippets like "trust me" caption-ballooned to his mouth, a rapacious-looking Malay rights NGO Perkasa chief Ibrahim Ali singing the Malay evergreen 'Lompat si katak, lompat' and Selangor state secretary Mohammed Khusrin Munawi having difficulties speaking in English.

Visions of the fate of the Mubarak regime in Egypt were also flashed on screen several times as many of the speakers, riding on the wave of popular solidarity with protestors in the country, made mention of the threat that people power posed to dictators and totalitarian regimes all over the Middle East, the world and indeed Malaysia itself.

This was accompanied by the tongue-in-cheek emceeing of Fahmi Fadzil of popular Internet television channel 'Popteevee' fame.

Fahmi, who now works for Nurul Izzah as her political aide, may have been one of the reasons for the sudden lively nature of the normally more sombre political event.

pkf forum 010211 anwar 02There was a serious side to the event.

A Kugan, former political aide Teoh Beng Hock who mysteriously fell to his death from the windows of the Selangor Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission office in Shah Alam and teen police shooting victim Aminulrasyid Amzah were flashed continually during the three-hour event, as mentions were made of their grisly fate.

### **Maiden run**

This maiden run of the PKR leadership roadshow which is supposed to portray a united front for the party after its problematic elections, was organised by the Lembah Pantai PKR division.

"We had to hold it here at the boundary of the Federal Territories because in Kuala Lumpur we cannot get a hall. We may be elected by the people but 'they' own the halls and won't allow us to use them," said Nurul Izzah (left), repeating her lament about the intractability of DBKL and its allegedly pro-BN policies.

Fahmi also informed Malaysiakini later that several police officers showed up trying to contend that there may be problems with the event as people were overflowing into the courtyard and outside of the grounds of the venue.

However, he said the organisers had taken the precaution to also include the courtyard of the Taman Sri Manja MBPJ hall in their permit application so that the police could not complain that they are outside the hall as well.

But the supporters who were outside the hall compound had to be packed inside the small courtyard to avoid police complaints that the event went outside of permitted boundaries.

On a more conventional level, the event also featured booths for registration of voters as well as party members, as the party looks to translate the groundswell of support for the opposition into actual votes and warm bodies of eager volunteers.

While last night's event was more polished than usual, it is up for contention if such sophisticated methods will actually help PKR rebuild its support base.