

Anwar: Is PM following Mubarak, Gaddafi's footsteps?
Malaysiakini.com
February 23, 2011

PKR leader Anwar Ibrahim has cautioned Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak for making comments similar to Middle-Eastern dictators who are facing threats to their rule.

"Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said that Malaysia is not Egypt. That is what Mubarak said. He said that Egypt is not like Tunisia.

"That is what Muammar Gaddafi said. That Libya is a special case. That Libya is not Egypt," said Anwar during a press conference at his party's headquarters today.

In the wake of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak's ousture, Najib warned Malaysians against engaging in demonstrations to oust his government, similar to those seen in Tunisia and Egypt recently.

Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi, who has ruled Libya with a iron-fist for 41-years, faces a major revolt in a number of cities including the capital Tripoli (right).

"He (Najib) should learn from what has happened in other countries," warned Anwar.

He urged the BN and Najib to start opening up to real democratic practices and improving freedoms in the nation if they want to ensure that Malaysia is not Egypt.

'Learn from Turkey'

One way for Najib to learn is to benefit from his recent state visit to Turkey, said Anwar snidely.

"He can learn from Turkey, about what is an Islamic nation, what is a country that is ruled by religious edicts, about press freedom and true democratic practices," suggested Anwar.

He was referring to the Malaysian premier's three-day state visit to Turkey which ended today.

Asked if he sees Najib's entreaties to Turkey as an attempt to poach support away from him, Anwar dismissed the idea.

"I maintain close relationship with the top Turkish leaders. Even just now, I received messages from them.

"Indeed, they also want Najib to use the opportunity of the visit to learn all these (lessons)," he quipped.

Anwar also jibed that Turkish leaders are not "Mr 10 percent" as to be so easily swayed into doing favours for Najib's entourage by pecuniary offers of a 'cut' in deals.

Turkey, in particular its prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has been said to be a staunch supporter of Anwar.

Its current foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, was lecturing in the International Islamic University Malaysia when Anwar was its president in the 1990s.

It was the Turkish embassy in Kuala Lumpur that gave Anwar sanctuary when threats against his life allegedly surfaced in 2008.

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/156877>