

PKR calls RPK an 'Umno mercenary'

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PKR today labelled its one-time ally Raja Petra Kamaruddin as an "Umno mercenary blogger", hired to discredit Anwar Ibrahim ahead of the Jan 9 Sodomy II verdict.

Secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution said Raja Petra was once shunned by Umno-linked newspapers but these gave him front page coverage over the weekend in order to damn Anwar.

NONE "We should not forget that Raja Petra, who is increasingly known as a 'Umno mercenary blogger', had once made sworn statements (on the Altantuya murder).

"Definitely, these newspapers did not report on this," Saifuddin (left) said in a statement today.

He was commenting on the Raja Petra interviews published yesterday by the Sunday editions of mainstream newspapers New Straits Times, Berita Harian and Utusan Malaysia.

The extensive interviews saw Raja Petra criticising Anwar's purported poor management of his party and failure to bring any significant change to PKR-held Selangor.

Raja Petra also says that if someone asked him if he thought Anwar was a homosexual, he would reply: "Maybe."

He adds that he is "90 percent" sure that Anwar is indeed the man depicted in the sex video published by the Datuk T trio.

'Part of Jan 9 plot'

Currently in exile after fleeing the country midway through a criminal defamation trial, Raja Petra was once an integral figure in PKR and formerly the editor of the PKR journal, Suara Keadilan.

He was also a former coordinator of the Free Anwar Campaign before concentrating on his Malaysia Today blog.

Throughout his press release, Saifuddin only mentions Raja Petra twice, alluding that he is part of a bigger plan by PKR's political enemies to attack Anwar.

Saifuddin claims that Umno was currently worried about attempts to gather the public for a rally on Jan 9, when the Sodomy II trial verdict is delivered.

Thus, argued Saifuddin, Umno and BN would take whatever measures necessary to discredit Anwar and dissuade members of the public from joining the rally.

"As a politician, Anwar definitely has followers and their presence (at the courthouse) should not be treated as an attempt to destabilise the country," he added.

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