

Cops now impose 10 conditions for Jan 9 rally
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Police have now issued 10 conditions to the Jan 9 rally in support of PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim, which now includes among others not allowing public speeches and 'Free Anwar' banners to be put up.

The conditions imposed are from the Sentul district police chief, Zakaria Pagan, and they were put up on the police's Facebook site.

The conditions are contrary to what PKR deputy president Azmin Ali had revealed earlier in a press conference.

NONThe conditions are:-

- * There will be no usage of pamphlet or banners with the tagline 'Bebaskan Anwar 901' (Release Anwar 901) or Bebasan Anwar (Release Anwar),

- * No use of loudhailers allowed with the exception of two for the purpose of controlling the crowd,

- * There will be no public speeches,

- * Participants are not allowed to make noise and disrupt court proceedings,

- * The gathering area which is allowed is the left parking area from the main road, and participants are not allowed to go out of the stipulated area,

- * If it is filled up then the others coming should disperse,

- * Organisers should ensure participants do not bring any weapons and they give full cooperation to the police,

- * The crowd should disperse an hour after the verdict,

- * They should comply with the directives issued by the police from time to time to ensure a peaceful assembly, and

- * Participants cannot destroy public property in the area.

Defy varsities' ruling, students urged

Meanwhile, going against the call by vice-chancellors of several universities to their students to not attend Monday's gathering, PKR today urged them to defy the ruling, since the police have declared the gathering legal.

The gathering at the Duta court complex is to show solidarity with Anwar, on the day his Sodomy II trial verdict is delivered.

"It is regrettable that the vice-chancellors are in the old mental block of not allowing students and lecturers academic freedom," Azmin said.

"They are still in kepong yang lama (old block) and I hope with this positive development today, the agreement reached between the organisers and police, the vice-chancellors will not stop their students

and lecturers from attending the rally," he said.

Azmin said the right to assemble was protected under Article 10 of the Federal Constitution, which the police have now respected.

The vice-chancellors should do so as well and drop the stern warnings to their students not to attend Monday's rally.

Azmin promised that it would be a peaceful gathering, beginning at 7am at the Jalan Duta car park, where there would be few speeches, and that it would likely end by noon.

NONEHe described today's meeting with Kuala Lumpur police chief Mohmad Salleh as unprecedented in PKR's 13 years of dealing with the police.

"We will assemble responsibly and peacefully and disperse properly. We have appointed 500 people to marshal the crowd and it will be an orderly gathering," he said.

Azmin said police set no conditions for the gathering or on the banners to be put up.

"That is why when they invited us we welcomed the meeting. The home minister and inspector-general of police should be commended for allowing the gathering," he said.

Azmin said PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin would meet with Sentul district police chief Zakaria Pagan to coordinate logistics and traffic control.

"Shamsul will also negotiate with Zakaria, if necessary, should there be any problem."

Peaceful rally, no army

Azmin said he expects about 100,000 supporters to attend the gathering, and invited peace loving Malaysians nationwide, Pakatan Rakyat members from PKR, PAS, DAP, and civil society groups to attend the gathering.

"We are confident to get 100,000 at the gathering and it would be an opportunity to get to know the verdict and hear speeches from Anwar and other leaders," he said.

"I cannot speculate on what will happen that day, but we will be orderly and there will be proper crowd control. We cannot expect the police to give instructions and control the crowd, and we will be giving the instructions."

NONEAsked about Perkasa's counter-rally at the FT mosque, Azmin questioned their timing in wanting to hold a qiamullail (special prayers).

"I have given an assurance that our rally would be peaceful but if there are any disturbances, the police will take action against the culprits," he said.

Azmin also rescinded on Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's (right) warning that he will bring in the army if any unrest took place.

"Let me tell Zahid to mind his own business.

"This will be a peaceful gathering, there will be no unrest and the soldiers can continue manning the borders and ensuring the security of the country.

"PKR, PAS and DAP members have held responsible and peaceful assemblies for the past couple of years. We will be responsible and this is the assurance we gave the police," he added.

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