

Pakatan sings Change at 'political concert'

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By Nicholas Wong

For one night only, Pakatan Rakyat leaders took to the stage to become singers and hold the first ever "political concert" in Malaysia.

NONEThe historical Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall was turned into a concert venue last night as DAP unveiled its new election campaign song Ubah (Change).

The coalition's leaders belted out the songs as the music video played amid the frenzied waving of light-sticks by the 700-strong crowd while over 1,000 supporters viewed the event live over the Internet.

Titled Malam Ubah (Night of Change), the event was attended by some of the top Pakatan leaders such as DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, Shah Alam PAS parliamentarian Khalid Samad and PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar.

Pakatan has been aggressively promoting its online presence ahead of the 13th general election by unveiling music videos, targeting social networks and setting up its own YouTube channel such as the 13th General Election Focus (Fokus PRU13).

NONEDAP national publicity secretary Anthony Loke (right in photo), who penned the lyrics for the Malay version of the song, urged Pakatan supporters to actively spread the video and the party's other media content on various social platforms.

The audience appeared to embrace the concert-like setup of the event, chanting the names of every Pakatan leader on their arrival and crowding around them as they entered the hall.

The leaders themselves roused the audience with their speeches.

DAP national deputy chairperson Tunku Abdul Aziz led the audience with shouts of "ubah" while Khalid Samad chanted "bersih" as he called on the people to attend the sit-in gathering at Dataran Merdeka on April 28.

NONENurul Izzah's (right) arrival was met with a particular fanfare - loud shouts of "reformasi" - which she later echoed during her speech.

Later in the evening, Guan Eng held a signing session for the opposition supporters who formed a long queue that extended to the side of the hall.

The music video, which was directed by Shoo Jia Keng, featured scenes of Pakatan leaders singing in a studio and ordinary Malaysians going about their lives.

There was also a Chinese version of the video, which was directed by Ho Yuhang with lyrics by singer Yu Heng.

'We need change now'

The opposition leaders highlighted the immediacy of the general election and stressed the importance of an opposition victory at the polls.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang predicted that the election would be held within 60 days, somewhat in line with PKR deputy president Azmin Ali's prediction that polling day would fall on June 23.

Kit Siang described the upcoming election as an opportunity to create equality for all under the Malaysian sun, shouting: "We want to create a Malaysia for all Malaysians."

NONEDAP national chairperson Karpal Singh (right) boasted of Pakatan's chances at capturing Putrajaya, saying that it was expected of Pakatan after capturing five states in 2008.

But he lamented the loss of Perak to BN in 2009, criticising the sultan of Perak "for surrendering a legally-elected state government to BN".

"Unfortunately, one state was lost because of the ... actions of the sultan of Perak. They can charge me but that is the fact," he added.

Guan Eng on the other hand played up the coalition's cohesiveness, warning the audience that BN would try to scare the Chinese.

"But PAS has never killed even a single Chinese (Malaysian)," he shouted to applause.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is expected to call for a general election within the year, where he will need to lead BN to a strong showing if he expects to retain power.

In 2008, Pakatan Rakyat captured five states and denied BN its traditional two thirds majority, eventually precipitating the resignation of then prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

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