

MCA Youth: Anwar's boycott stymies democracy

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PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim's non-submission of questions to the new Parliament at its opening sitting on June 24 as a protest against the legitimacy of the 13th general election has drawn flak from MCA Youth chief Wee Ka Siong.

Wee said Anwar's protest could be likened to clamping down on the voice of democracy of the voters, whom Anwar claimed to represent.

NONE"His stand-offish move is self-defeatist against his very own constituency... Anwar should prioritise highlighting matters that concern the rakyat, instead of stoking his own ego," Wee said in a statement issued today.

The Ayer Hitam MP (right) pointed out that debates in Parliament allowed federal legislators, irrespective of their political affiliation, to raise questions on any issue or government policy that affects the rakyat, as well as provides the avenue for lawmakers to raise their support or reservations for a Bill before it is passed.

"Rather than commencing to work and serve the rakyat, this form of silent protest by Anwar is simply a continuation of all public rallies.

"Anwar is an ineffective sore loser and this latest stunt is none other than an attempt to play up theatricals to solicit public sympathy."

'Shows opposition's double standard'

Wee said Anwar's move demonstrated the opposition's double standard in its verbal assaults on MCA, with Pakatan Rakyat often flaying the MCA, as part of the BN coalition, for allegedly staying silent on issues.

He reminded the Pakatan candidates that they had, during the general election campaign period, promised to raise issues if elected to the Dewan Rakyat.

"Now, despite an increased number of Pakatan MPs in Parliament, their paramount leader has paradoxically reneged on the opposition's vow, for his silent protest will repudiate the rakyat's concerns and welfare."

Wednesday was the deadline for the submission of questions for ministerial replies in the coming session and Anwar did not submit any as Permatang Pauh MP.

"Politics is also a matter of perception and the widespread perception is that the 13th general election was tainted by fraud is broad enough for us to mull the option of whether to boycott the opening session," Anwar had earlier told Malaysiakini.

His non-submission of questions, he explained, was also prompted by a desire to protest the two-week deadline of acceptance of questions for ministerial replies, which he described as "unwarrantably long".

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