

## **Anwar: Gov't overreacted to dog trainer's video**

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**By Nigel Aw**

Dog trainer Maznah Mohd Yusof's controversial Aidilfitri greeting video clip may have offended people but it did not warrant being made a national issue, said PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

"I think the issue is not because of the dogs but because they (dogs) were linked to Aidilfitri, so call her up and advise her, explain to her.

"There is no need to turn it into a national issue. When it comes to (harping on) a small case like this, it reflects badly on our priorities," he told journalists when met outside the PKR headquarters in Petaling Jaya this morning.

He was responding to the Malaysian Islamic Development Department's (Jakim) declaration that the video insulted Islam and plans to press charges against her.

Anwar pointed out that there are instances where Muslim leaders linked to BN held stakes in gambling and liquor companies but no action were taken against them.

"There are those having major interest in (liquor company) San Miguel, (yet) it is a non-issue but this (video clip) becomes a major issue.

"We have to be seen to be transparent, honest, and sincere," said Anwar, who was once one of the best-known religious conservatives in the 1970s.

Bi-partisan meeting with cops

However, he acknowledged that Jakim had its role to play but said it should focus on the major issues.

Maznah was on Wednesday arrested for a video she made three years ago showing her performing ablution together with her dogs to the tune of a Hari Raya song.

She was released on Friday after being brought from Kuala Lumpur to Segamat to have her statements recorded.

On another matter, Anwar reiterated his call for a bi-partisan meeting with the police to discuss ways to tackle the rise in violent crimes.

He also weighed in on Malaysia's downgrade by Fitch Ratings, adding that regardless of whether Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak survived the Umno elections, things does not appear that they will change.

"It is not about the individual but the policies since (former prime minister) Mahathir Mohamad's time have remained the same. The endemic corruption and abuse of power, it is still all there," he said.

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