

BFM barred from airing Anwar interview

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Business radio station BFM has been barred from broadcasting its interview with PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim on the Kajang by-election.

The interview was initially slated to be aired on the station's Evening Edition, which is a drive-time programme.

It is understood that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) had ordered the station to can the interview.

However, it is still available for download on the station's website.

It is normal practice for radio stations to submit a list of guests and topics for the MCMC's reference.

It is also noted that this is not the first time that BFM has been barred by the MCMC from airing an interview.

Among other instances, the MCMC had ordered BFM not to air its interview with Irshad Manji, a Canadian book author who has drawn opposition from conservative Muslim groups due to her liberal stand on Islam.

BFM is a Klang Valley-based radio station that can be received in parts of Negri Sembilan and Malacca.

The station has built a reputation for its more liberal and bold approach towards business and current affairs reporting, which sets it apart from Malaysia's 'big three' private radio groups - Media Prima Radio Networks, Star Publications (M) Bhd and AMP Radio Networks.

It was founded by Malek Ali and last year, 23 percent of its stakes were reported to have been acquired by The Edge Communications Sdn Bhd.

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