

Pakatan leaders vow to wait for Anwar

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Pakatan Rakyat coalition leaders came together in full solidarity last night as PKR defacto leader Anwar Ibrahim gave his "farewell speech" in the face of a five year jail sentence for sodomy II.

About 2,000 of Anwar's supporters braved the drizzle and sat on wet and muddy ground to hear Anwar's 'farewell' speech to his voters in Permatang Pauh in case he fails to overturn the Court of Appeal's decision next week to jail him for the alleged offence.

His appeal against the five year jail sentence will be heard on Oct 28 and 29 at the Federal Court in Putrajaya.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, also the Chief Minister of Penang, said that the gathering was to tell Anwar that DAP will continue the struggle for justice "no matter what happens" next week.

"We will be with Anwar whether he is in prison or free. This struggle will bring us to Putrajaya," Lim said, during his speech at the 'People are the judge' solidarity event for Anwar in Seberang Jaya.

"If Anwar fails in his appeal at the Federal Court, the people of Penang wants him to know that we will wait for his return.

"With a new wave of reformasi following his jail sentence, we will seize Putrajaya and Anwar will be out sooner from prison," said Lim.

'Intuition Anwar will not be jailed'

PAS deputy chief Mohamed Sabu said his "intuition" (firasat) tells him that God willing, Anwar will not go to prison this time.

However, Mohamed, popularly known as Mat Sabu said he is not aware of what Prime Minister Najib Razak's intuition is.

"But we all know Najib's government is no longer popular.

"Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed seems to have nothing better to do than wallop Najib.

"We don't need him to do this, as we are also whacking him. But what to do?" Mat Sabu asked.

Mat Sabu said notwithstanding Anwar's fate, Pakatan will continue to work hard to bring reforms to Malaysian politics.

He vowed that the opposition coalition will stay together "until the people can feel that justice prevails in the government".

PAS Parit Buntar MP Mujahid Yusof Rawa said the rally was to warn those concerned to be careful as "you can punish whoever you wish to but the people's court is something bigger and more important.

"If the justice system can be trusted, there is no need for the people to be judges or for the people's court to exist."

Mujahid admitted that Pakatan had gone through some rough patches, just like "normal married couples" and that the partners were not "angels" to be free of conflict.

He said Selangor Menteri Besar crisis which he described as a "big test and challenge" for Pakatan.

"But thank God, we emerged out of this crisis successfully.

Mujahid said Pakatan will face these challenges calmly as what is more important is how matured the coalition partners are in resolving issues that threaten to tear them apart.

"This struggle is not for an individual or personality, whether Anwar is behind bars or free, the people's struggles must go on as leaders come and go. Just because Anwar's body is in jail, our fight will stop?" he asked.

The crowd, which seemed to be in a defensive mood, shouted "No!" along Pakatan's battle cries of reformasi and takbir.

The event lasted three hours late into the night.

For the past weeks, PKR had embarked on a nationwide campaign in solidarity with Anwar which will culminate in a mammoth rally at the Putrajaya courts on Oct 28 and Oct 29.