

**Will Anwar measure up to expectations?**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
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I refer to the Malaysiakini  
MCPX  
report Hadi non-committal on Anwar's PM bid.

New developments have raised questions in the minds of non-Muslims/non-Malays on what the Pakatan Rakyat will deliver if they become the next government.

The protest against the Bar Council forum on conversion to Islam was called off under pressure from Muslims led by PKR's Kulim Bandar Baru MP Zulkifli Noordin and Badrul Amin, a PKR supreme council member while PAS was led by PAS Youth chief Salahuddin Ayub.

The actions of Umno were expected. The protesters were allowed to march without police harassment.

The arrest of blogger Abdul Rashid Abu Bakar is harassment against criticism of the government. The same applies to the case of Raja Petra Kamaruddin. The Sedition Act has become a convenient instrument to punish bloggers.

The Hindraf Five continue to languish in Kamunting under the ISA.

The issues of religion and race and freedom of expression have been bugging voters since the 12th general election. They expected a new Malaysian identity of equal citizenship with freedom irrespective of religion and race.

Now Anwar is going to campaign in Permatang Pauh to win over the Malay voters because they comprise the majority. He is already being demonised by the government machinery for betraying the Malays.

Is he now going to sing a different tune just to gain their votes? We hope not.

The non-Muslims and the non-Malays expect an iron-clad assurance from him that issues affecting the non-Muslims and non-Malays will be addressed and the Sedition Act amended and the ISA abolished.

If such an assurance is not forthcoming then we will all be back to square one with all the race, religion and justice issues unresolved. If this happens, then what good is there in a change of government?

The Malays may feel threatened and the non-Malays frustrated. We do not expect the new dawn in Malaysia to be achieved overnight. The religious and racial issues in this country are too deep rooted.

We need to see attempts being made and changes in the making. Many of the so-called sensitive issues can no longer co-exist with the new vision of Malaysia.

The hopes and expectations in Anwar are very high. Hopefully he will measure up to them.

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