

Anwar PKR's symbol of justice
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PETALING JAYA - The statements given by Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin and Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar on Friday demonstrated the centrality of Anwar Ibrahim as the key symbol of justice for the party struggle.

While Shamsul likened the supreme leader to Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, Zuraida suggested that the supreme leader be constitutionally placed as the uncontested de facto chief above the party president, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, saying that he symbolizes the party's struggles for justice.

Both were speaking at the seventh PKR congress and their statements were a far cry from Zaid Ibrahim who stressed that the party should go beyond Anwar's sodomy trial case as it was "unworthy" to become a "one-issue party".

Anwar: A symbol of justice

Zuraida said she will raise a motion for the de facto leader's post to be created and drafted in the party constitution during her opening speech in the PKR Wanita congress.

"The de facto leader's post cannot be contested and only belongs to Anwar Ibrahim in order to recognise his role and influence in the development of PKR thus far," she was quoted by MI.

She also said that Anwar's post will be formalized as he symbolizes the party's struggles for justice.

"His struggle created the reformasi movement. Therefore, we want Anwar to be officially structured into the party," she added.

Anwar and PR government

Shamsul said Anwar's struggle was comparable to that of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi and is "symbolic of the people's wishes for justice".

He claimed that a Pakatan Rakyat government might be impossible if Anwar was to be charged guilty in his ongoing sodomy trial and be put into jail, FMT reported.

He said: "The Barisan Nasional government is using all methods at its disposal to send Anwar to jail. We cannot let this pass, as Umno will deny the people a chance to see Pakatan come to power."

"If Anwar is not treated fairly, then how can ordinary people or even foreign investors who don't have connections expect to be treated fairly?" he said adding that the opposition leader's quest for justice was also an effort to free the judiciary from the clutches of the ruling government.

Meanwhile, the High Court is to decide on Dec 6 on Anwar's application to recuse High Court Judge Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah from continuing to preside over his sodomy trial.

This is the second time that Anwar has applied to recuse the judge, the first being after the judge's refusal to cite contempt against Utusan Malaysia for a report the defence claimed was prejudicial to the case.

Anwar sought to recuse the judge on the grounds that the judge had intimidated his counsel on Monday and that even though the judge had withdrawn the alleged intimidation, Anwar said there was a real danger of bias if the judge was to continue hearing his case.

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