

Anwar and three Pakatan MPs suspended for six months  
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UPDATED KUALA LUMPUR - THE last day of the Dewan Rakyat sitting Thursday, as expected, turned out to be a fiery affair when Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim was suspended from Parliament over the Apco issue, while the motion to cite Pakatan Rakyat MPs Karpal Singh, R. Sivarasa and Azmin Ali for contempt was also passed.

All four were suspended for six months.

The first motion to suspend Anwar was passed without debate amidst shouts, with Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia saying that the opposition's rowdy behaviour showed no intention to debate on the matter.

"I see no intention on the opposition's part to debate the matter. So we will go ahead and vote on this without debate," Pandikar was quoted as saying in the Parliament by The Malaysian Insider.

The opposition MPs walked out of the chamber when Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Abdul Aziz began to read the second motion to cite Azmin Ali (PKR-Gombak), Karpal Singh (DAP-Bukit Gelugor) and R. Sivarasa (PKR-Subang) for contempt.

No PR lawmakers were in the House when BN MPs continued to debate on the second motion.

When Nazri read the first motion at 11.05am, some of the Opposition MPs remained standing and displayed placards shouting 'kangaroo court', while backbenchers responded by thumping on their tables to drown shouts of "Apco", according to The Star report.

Karpal said Pakatan Rakyat will take case to court and seek for judicial review over the abuse of power by Pandikar and the decision to suspend.

A heated exchange on Wednesday ended with the Speaker ordering Sivarasa and Azmin out of the House.

Pandikar Amin and Sivarasa argued for long over a WikiLeaks motion, which the Speaker had rejected in his chamber.

The Speaker also warned Sivarasa not to "drag me into your political agenda!"

Azmin earned Pandikar Amin's displeasure when he repeatedly demanded to know why he and two other Opposition MPs were being cited for contempt.

"Don't make such accusations. I was never even referred to the Rights and Privileges Committee. We were not even given a trial. What sort of system is this?" Azmin asked.

Fed up, Pandikar Amin ordered both out.

The disciplinary action against Anwar, Azmin, Sivarasa and Karpal being adopted by the

House is a formality as Barisan Nasional has the numbers and a simple majority is needed to effect a suspension.

The suspension will see them being unable to attend the meeting in March and, possibly, June.

Anwar is facing a six-month suspension, which was recommended by the Rights and Privileges Committee for linking 1Malaysia to the One Israel campaign via Apco Worldwide,

Anwar's suspension recommendation was made known to MPs on Tuesday morning in the Order Paper but talk swirled in the lobby and lounge that more MPs were going to be hauled up for disciplinary action.

On Wednesday morning, the rumours were confirmed — a motion brought by a minister to cite three MPs for contempt was listed in the Order Paper.

They had been linked to Anwar's case and each of them were recommended for six-month suspensions.

Karpal and Sivarasa were cited for contempt for revealing details of the Rights and Privileges Committee hearing in a press conference on Dec 3 while Azmin had filed an emergency motion against the committee.

The three were said to have contravened Standing Order 85, which states that evidence taken before any Select Committee and documents presented to it shall not be published by any member of such committee, or by any other person, before the committee has presented its report to the House.

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