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Listen to Dr M, urges Azmin

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BUKIT MERTAJAM: PKR deputy president Azmin Ali Ilias resorted to employing Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attacks on the government in the Permatang Pauh by-election campaign.

At a ceramah in Kubang Uiu on Sunday, Azmin urged the audience to listen to criticism by the former prime minister, cashing in on his disapproval of the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

PKR is harping on the GST issue as its main material in the campaign, other than the alleged injustice against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was jailed for sodomy.

Azmin also drew a comparison between BN's candidate Suhaini Sabudin and Dr Mahathir, saying the latter was vocal in expressing opinions.

The Selangor menteri besar said Dr Mahathir's voice had become louder with age.

"It is better for us to support a 90-year-old man rather than the young candidate (Subaimi).

"Dr Mahathir's lifespan has been prolonged by crises. The more he fights, the stronger he will be."

However, Azmin struck a wrong chord with Pas ulama vice-chief Datuk Dr Mahfodz Mohamed, for equating Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with a Muslim prophet in the same ceramah.

Responding to an analogy by Azmin, in which he said Anwar's struggles were akin to the struggles endured by Prophet Yusuf, Mahfodz said such a statement could confuse Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

"That is wrong. What is being experienced by Anwar is different from what was endured by Yusuf.

"If anyone had read and studied Islamic parables, Prophet Yusuf suffered so much more," said Mahfodz yesterday.

Azmin said Anwar was similar to Prophet Yusuf as both were jailed by their rulers. He said a leader "must suffer incarceration" in order to exalt his leadership qualities.

Azmin was campaigning for PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is also Anwar's wife, in her bid to win the Permatang Pauh by-election.

"If you want to be a leader, you need to be jailed first, just like Yusuf. He was jailed not because he was evil, or had committed robbery or bribery.

"He was put behind bars for being courageous. Just like Anwar," said Azmin.

The Quran narrated Prophet Yusuf's jailing and stated he had prayed to be sent behind bars to shield himself from worldly temptations.