

'THEY'RE THOSE WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR ROOTS'

Anwar takes indirect dig at Azmin, says struggle is not about ministerships, projects

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THE gloves, it appears, are off as the war of words between PKR's top two leaders, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, escalated to new levels.

This was after the PKR president made a scathing remark against his deputy at the party's Reformist Convention 2019 here yesterday.

Although Anwar made no mention of Azmin's name in his speech before the crowd at the Ideal Convention Centre here, it was evident that the attack was directed at the latter.

This was despite Anwar, on pre-

vious occasions, denying allegations of infighting within the Pakatan Harapan component party, following a fallout between the two party leaders.

Anwar said leaders should not forget their roots and slammed opposition parties, saying that they had forgotten their duties to the people, hence their defeat in last year's general election.

"Sometimes, some people forget and even in PKR, there are those who forget (their roots).

"They no longer dare to say the word 'reformasi' or meet with the reformists because they have forgotten where they come from.

"They forgot that this struggle is not for one or two persons.

"It is not to secure one or two ministerships, or to give projects to those who support (you) and not give any to those who defy (you).

"This is the old Umno's bad attitude and this must change," he said, to which some members of the audience shouted, "throw Azmin out".

The Port Dickson member of

parliament (MP), however, did not elaborate on his claim of "giving projects".

Anwar said he had discussed the matter with Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad two days ago.

"I said, 'this is abuse of power, we must stop this habit'. It wasn't just a meeting with people from our party, but there was a discussion with our (political) enemies.

"We must have principles in our struggle.

"There is no need for me to elaborate because everything is now out in the open."

Anwar is believed to be referring to the meeting between Azmin and several Barisan Nasional MPs, as well as some PKR lawmakers, at his official residence in Precinct 10, Putrajaya, last Monday night.

While Azmin had described it as a normal meeting between MPs, other participants had, in subsequent days, provided different accounts of what transpired during the meeting.

Some claimed it had to do with

projects for their respective constituency, while others claimed it was over the economy and the government's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.

Asked on the Nov 18 meeting at a press conference on Saturday, Dr Mahathir said he had heard from Azmin that some of the Umno MPs were contemplating defecting.

The PH chairman said some of the Umno MPs had expressed their support for him.

This claim, however, prompted a denial from seven Umno MPs.

Anwar and Azmin have had a strained relationship, splitting PKR into two camps after it was reported that Dr Mahathir favoured Azmin as his successor. Dr Mahathir had denied the claim on several occasions.

The emergence of a sex video implicating Azmin, which the economic affairs minister denied, had also caused further strain in his relationship with Anwar after the Gombak MP insinuated that Anwar's supporters were behind the video.