

ANWAR TAKES VEILED SWIPE AT DR M

He claims ex-PM only started advocating for the Malays after leaving office

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday took a veiled swipe at Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for alleging that Malays no longer dominated the economy and politics.

Without naming Dr Mahathir, Anwar also suggested that the former only raised concerns about Malays losing dominance

after leaving office.

"Someone was in power for 22 years and then 22 months," he said during PKR's Special Congress here yesterday, in an apparent reference to Dr Mahathir's two stints as prime minister.

"Now that he has lost power, he is whining that Malays have lost everything."

Anwar alleged that Dr Mahathir had enriched himself and his family when he was in office and was now attempting to advocate for the people only after losing power.

"Please don't try to hoodwink the public by saying they should rise and fight for their rights."

The prime minister vowed that

he would not be cowed by threats of a gathering purportedly led by Dr Mahathir.

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DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister

He said he was unfazed by talk that he was afraid to act against corrupt officials, and that the people had chosen the wrong prime minister.

"I am undaunted. I have the power, I will enforce it. "If you want to seize power, go ahead. But it is not going to be easy.

We are armed with the *keris*."

Dr Mahathir recently expressed concerns about the declining dominance of Malays in the economy and politics.

He said "others" had taken over and that the country's future would be bleak if Malays were not

the dominant force.

Meanwhile, in a related development, the organisers of the "Malay Proclamation" event, which was set to feature Dr Mahathir, have encountered another setback as they announced that a second venue has cancelled its booking for the event.

Initially to be held at Hotel Impiana KLCC in Kuala Lumpur, the event was cancelled due to technical issues.

The organisers, Sekretariat Proklamasi Orang Melayu, then selected a second venue, only to be informed by the management on Friday night that the booking had been cancelled.

"We were not provided with any reason for the cancellation," the sekretariat said in a statement.

"We sincerely apologise to the invited guests for changing the location twice.

"The sekretariat will make an

announcement soon."

Although the second venue was not specified, a Malay daily named it as the Sime Darby Convention Centre located in Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir was expected to attend the event in his personal capacity and not as a representative of Putra, the political party he joined after stepping down from Pejuang, which he founded.

In 2019, when he was the prime minister leading the Pakatan Harapan government, Dr Mahathir attended the Malay Dignity Congress and denied allegations that it was racially-motivated, stating that no speeches criticised non-Malays.

Sekretariat Proklamasi Orang Melayu had previously said the event was not political in nature and aimed to discuss issues related to the Malay community.