



PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the party's special congress at Stadium Malawati in Shah Alam yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

PKR SPECIAL CONGRESS

ANWAR SLAMS CORRUPT LEADERS

He vows to fight people who have amassed billions, squandered country's wealth

DAWN CHAN
SHAH ALAM
news@nst.com.my

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim was in a combative mood yesterday, slamming "corrupt leaders who amassed billions of ringgit in the past".

The PKR president, addressing the party's special congress, did not mince his words when he highlighted the wealth of such leaders, some of whom were his predecessors in the federal government.

He stopped short of naming them, but vowed to continue to fight them and those who fanned racial sentiments.

He said he had been patient for four months since he became prime minister.

He told foreign embassy dignitaries invited to the congress he was usually calm in Parliament, unlike his demeanour yesterday,

"Excellencies, I chose this forum because this is the Reformasi base. I am more guarded and composed in my replies in Parliament because I thought as the prime minister, I should maintain decorum.

"But many of my foes have misread this. They see it as a sign of weakness.

"So many corrupt leaders who amassed billions of ringgit in the past and were given the opportunity to lead have squandered the wealth of this country, enriched their family members and made their children billionaires.

"I will fight them and I will fight them hard. This country belongs to all Malaysians.

"Yes, Malay and Islam are the official language and religion, respectively, and we protect the sanctity of the Malay rulers.

"But we will never compromise the principle that this is a country for Malaysians irrespective of race and creed. If you challenge that, you challenge us.

"I will use all the authority at my disposal and strength to stop this madness, this insanity of fighting other races. Do not fan racial sentiments."

He said he would champion the people's agenda, not that of Malays, families or cronies who

were out to enrich themselves.

He said someone who was in power for 22 years and then 22 months had complained that Malays had lost their wealth.

"Why have they lost it? You were the one who squandered it for your family and children.

"Now that you have lost power, you talk about the people's welfare. Do not fool the people. The rakyat should rise and defend their rights."

Anwar said a political figure, a Tan Sri, had asked Malays to hate other races.

"You were in power, including for three years in the government. What happened to RUU355?" he asked, referring to amendments to the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act.

He said someone worth billions of ringgit did not pay taxes and wanted to flee the country.

"When they lose power, they get scared when attacked by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Inland Revenue Board.

"I will not let go of these towkay and the ultra-rich who do not pay taxes.

"For so long, the political powers protected criminals and not the rakyat. But I will use that power to protect the people."