

PKR: Anwar's sodomy trial outcome will affect every Malaysian
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 — PKR vice-president N. Surendran said today the same judiciary that would pass judgment on opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim next week “failed to uphold the fundamental freedoms” in the Constitution and had trampled on the public’s basic rights.

“What is at stake here is more than the opposition leader’s personal freedom,” Surendran said in a press statement. “The people have suffered under harsh laws, widespread corruption and the abuse of public office for profit and self-enrichment.

“The people, to whom this nation rightfully belongs, have been reduced to poor petitioners at the door of Putrajaya, where Umno or BN leaders and their hangers-on lord over the people.”

The Kuala Lumpur High Court will deliver its verdict in the sodomy trial of Anwar on Monday, which Surendran condemned as “a show trial of a type frequently resorted to by authoritarian regimes to crush political opponents”.

He criticised Barisan Nasional for halting Malaysia’s “walk to freedom” by attempting to politically annihilate Anwar through a partial and compliant justice system.

“The people of this nation were promised that their land would be free and democratic. This promise was wilfully broken by the political coalition,” Surendran said.

The prominent lawyer said Anwar had a long record of never giving in, and would never surrender whatever the outcome.

“Anwar’s defiant stand against an unjust system gives the rakyat renewed strength and hope in the face of the oppressor’s brute force, and fortifies the rakyat’s determination to push for change and reform,” he said.

“Whichever way the verdict goes on January 9, we can take heart that soon enough it will be the rakyat’s turn to deliver verdict upon an unrighteous and persecuting government.”

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