

Anwar says Pakatan will survive sodomy conviction
The Malaysian Insider
January 05, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 — Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Pakatan Rakyat will survive even if he goes to jail, as the date for his sodomy trial verdict draws close.

The PR defacto leader charged that the coalition's focus should be towards overthrowing Umno, and has embarked on nationwide tour which began yesterday to shore up support ahead of Monday's High Court decision.

"Anwar in jail, Anwar out of jail... it doesn't matter. The most important (thing) is people should overthrow Umno," he was quoted by AFP as saying last night during a ceramah in Negri Sembilan.

The Opposition leader has been charged with sodomising a former aide, something which he has vehemently denied, claiming that it was part of a ploy to destroy his political career.

Anwar (picture) told a 500-strong crowd he was innocent of the allegations and called on his listeners to "save our country" from government corruption and mismanagement.

"I'm not guilty. I'm a victim of slander... there is no case if they follow the facts or the law," he said.

He also took swipes and jibes at Barisan Nasional (BN), accusing them of aiming to create divisions between Malays and non-Malays.

Anwar has also said PR has decided who will lead the pact if he is found guilty next week of sodomy charges and jailed ahead of a general election expected this year.

"We have prepared the groundwork for a manifesto for Pakatan Rakyat and we are now in the final stages," Anwar told Bloomberg in an interview this week.

"We have decided on the leadership during elections or post-elections in the event I'm imprisoned."

Anwar said this was part of PR's contingency plans if he were to go to jail again.

If found guilty, he could spend up to 20 years behind bars but will escape the caning penalty as he is over 60. It would effectively spell the end of his political career and his chance to be prime minister.

The Malaysian Insider
Copyright© 2012 The Malaysian Insider
Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/anwar-says-pakatan-will-survive-sodomy-conviction/>