

Azmin Ali says guarantees peaceful rally next Monday
The Malaysian Insider
January 06, 2012
By Melissa Chi

PETALING JAYA, Jan 6 — PKR Deputy President Azmin Ali issued a guarantee today that a mass rally planned for next Monday to show support for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in front of the KL High Court will be peaceful.

Earlier today, KL Police Chief Datuk Mohamad Salleh approved the Monday gathering, which will be held in conjunction with the delivery of Anwar's sodomy trial verdict.

"I've stressed that the purpose of this assembly is to show solidarity for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's leadership and to serve as a protest against the gutter politics practised by Umno and Barisan Nasional.

A close-up of the diagram.

"I guarantee that this will be a peaceful assembly and that it will take place in a proper and organised manner," he told reporters here at the PKR headquarters.

The Gombak MP had announced on Tuesday that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) planned to gather over 100,000 people in a show of support for Anwar next Monday when the High Court delivers its decision for Sodomy II.

Anwar, 64, was charged with sodomising former male aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan at a condominium in upscale Damansara Heights in June 2008, a few months before returning from a decade in the political wilderness and winning back his Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat.

This represents the second time he has been prosecuted for sodomy.

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.

Azmin also said that 500 "Marshal Force" personnel will assist the police to ensure the assembly remains peaceful throughout. He explained that Marshal Force is made up of PR members who have been specially trained for such an occasion.

He said the designated assembly area is the main parking lot in front of the High Court. Participants may park their vehicles at the Matrade building or Tun Razak Hockey Stadium nearby.

Azmin (right) shakes hands with KL police chief Datuk Mohamad Salleh after their meeting at the Kuala Lumpur police headquarters, January 6, 2011. — Picture by Choo Choy May
Azmin also said that he has informed the police that the peaceful assembly will begin at 7am. He stressed that there will not be any procession or any other assembly apart from the one in front of the High Court.

"Since this is a peaceful assembly, which had been approved by the police, the leaders and I are convinced that there will not be any roadblocks that will cause traffic jams and to stop the public from attending.

"The police had said that they are prepared to control the traffic to avoid any disruption," he said.

Azmin also said PKR Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Amin will communicate with Sentul OCPD ACP Zakaria Pagan to ensure the assembly does not get out of control.

"The police had only wanted the guarantee from us that the rally will be peaceful and organised. This is in line with the Home Minister's wishes as well as that of the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

"Keadilan, DAP and PAS members for the past 12 years have proved themselves to be highly disciplined. There has not been even one incident in the past 12 years of peaceful assemblies except those that are the result of provocation by irresponsible parties," he said, stressing again that the assembly is consistent with Article 10 of the Constitution.

Azmin added that there will be "two grand finales" on Sunday, one in Kampung Baru, and another in Kampung Pandan.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and top Pakatan Rakyat leaders will attend both peaceful assemblies, he said.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright© 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/azmin-ali-says-guarantees-peaceful-rally-next-monday/>