

## **Cops raised rally control measures, not 'conditions', says PKR Youth chief**

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**By Debra Chong**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 — PKR's Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin insisted today the police did not mention any conditions for its Free Anwar rally tomorrow, but conceded the gist of the crowd-control measures were raised and agreed on by both sides in their Friday meeting.

The Youth chief told The Malaysian Insider today he had received a letter from the Sentul OCPD Zakaria Pagan at 4pm yesterday in a face-to-face meeting and that it contained the 10 conditions highlighted in the media.

However, he insisted the word "conditions" was not mentioned at the earlier meeting chaired by the Kuala Lumpur CPO on Friday.

"The word was never used," the Shamsul Iskandar said, clouding further PKR's dispute with the police over whether conditions had been imposed for its peaceful demonstration in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who will learn the verdict for his latest sodomy charge.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Mohamad Salleh has steadfastly maintained that the police had clearly stated the conditions for PKR's right to assemble at the car park in front of the court complex in Jalan Duta tomorrow.

"Azmin Ali's denial is untrue, the conditions issued were based on a consensual agreement, there were no additions or reductions," the KL CPO said today, adding the police had photographic evidence showing Shamsul Iskandar had signed the agreement.

"We are warning them that if the conditions are violated, the police will take action against the assembly organiser," he said.

KL's top policeman also hit out at Azmin for "lying" in his statements yesterday.

The PKR deputy president did not respond to The Malaysian Insider's calls for an explanation.

The police have barred the attendees from making speeches, shouting slogans and carrying banners in tomorrow's rally, as part of measures to control the crowd from disrupting public order and peace.

Shamsul Iskandar noted that the Inspector-General of Police may have instructed his men to discuss the conditions for rally but it was put across differently.

"Maybe they talked about the gist of it. We told them we will be carrying banners and chanting slogans, but they never said anything about it then," he related.

"We have an understanding with them for the assembly to be peaceful and not to turn unruly," he said but declined to go on the records to elaborate the kind of understanding both sides had reached.

Shamsul Iskandar said the meeting with the Mohamad Salleh and other police officers last Friday was very cordial.

"They were very understanding. The CPO also understands people come in high spirits and we want to create an ambience.

"We told them we can't control them from voicing out [their opinions] but we can minimise their [volume]," the lawyer said, adding they would not be amplifying their sloganeering or speeches and will only be using a loudhailer to make announcements.

Shamsul Iskandar said PKR appreciated the authorities' understanding and had pledged to and assured the police they will work together to keep the rally peaceful.

He also said he had asked the OCPD to increase the number of officers on duty at the court complex tomorrow to ensure public safety and security, especially of Anwar, whom Shamsul Iskandar said was concerned that someone might be out to harm him or his wife, after Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail's bodyguard was injured last night.

Several groups have rung the alarm ahead of tomorrow's police-permitted public assembly outside the Court Complex in Jalan Duta here tomorrow, where hundreds, maybe thousands of demonstrators are expected to show up in support of Anwar.

The de facto head of the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) opposition pact is accused of sodomising a former male aide in a posh condominium in upscale Damansara Heights in June 2008 and faces up to 20 years in jail if found guilty.

It would effectively put an end to his political career and snuff his chance of becoming prime minister.

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