

Ibrahim Ali offers to 'help' cops at Anwar rally
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 — Independent MP Datuk Ibrahim Ali has offered to help the police with crowd control if the public rally in support of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim outside the Jalan Duta Court Complex here today turns unruly.

The Perkasa founder and president said his Malay nationalist movement has prepared 300 of its members to face disorderly situations for the past two to three months and was ready for such a scenario.

Ibrahim expects a small crowd at the rally. — File pic

"We are ready to face any possibility tomorrow; if PDRM needs help we have 300 members who are prepared," he told reporters yesterday.

The Pasir Mas MP, who has been championing his brand of limited nationalism, was referring to the PKR-organised rally in support of Opposition Leader Anwar who will learn if he is to remain a free man or return to jail for up to 20 years.

The High Court is set to pronounce its verdict on Anwar, who is charged with sodomising a former male aide at a posh condominium in upscale Damansara Heights here in June 2008. He has pleaded not guilty.

"Perkasa takes the view it will not be at court [today], but if PDRM needs help we will come and help," Ibrahim said.

However, he said he was confident there would be no disturbance due to what Ibrahim said was likely to be a small crowd he estimated to be less than 100,000 people.

"I foresee their total will not cross 100,000 people. Today's a working day, maybe they will only number around 5,000 to 6,000 people," he said.

Ibrahim said he had observed Anwar's public rallies and noted that the turnout was small and the number of supporters was declining.

The lawmaker said Perkasa members would keep their distance from the Jalan Duta court complex and remain within the Federal Territory mosque compound across the road for special prayers that started last night and will continue until later this evening.

"We love peace and security, we will focus on our programmes solely," he said, stressing Perkasa will not be hindering the mammoth rally.

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