

**Appeal against Anwar shows PM's reforms insincere, says PKR veep**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**January 21 , 2012**  
**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21 — The Attorney-General's decision to appeal the acquittal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on a sodomy charge shows that the prime minister's reforms are nothing but lip service, N. Surendran said today.

The PKR vice-president, who said the appeal would make Malaysia the laughing stock of the international community, stressed that the Attorney-General's Chambers would not have filed the appeal if not for interference by the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN).

"If the A-G's Chambers had really proceeded solely on the evidence and the law, there would have been no appeal filed against the acquittal. The only kind of law the appeal could possibly be based upon is the law of the jungle," he said in a statement.

Surendran (picture) also accused the A-G's Chambers of being a tool used by ruling party Umno to continue its "vicious, immoral and relentless" persecution of Anwar, who was acquitted by the High Court on January 9.

The A-G's Chambers' "excuse" that an appeal had to be filed to appreciate the grounds considered by the trial judge in arriving at his conclusion was "simply absurd and untenable", given the evidence presented and the prosecution's own shortcomings, he said.

"As clearly demonstrated by his counsel at the trial, the case against Anwar is so full of holes that there is no necessity to even look at the judge's grounds of judgment," he said.

Surendran said the filing was an example of Umno's alleged abuse of state powers and a trademark of the BN government's decades-long authoritarian rule but pledged that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) would not falter in its quest for change and reform.

Yesterday, public prosecutors filed to appeal against Anwar's high-profile acquittal on a charge of sodomy, the same day the Court of Appeal reversed DAP chairman Karpal Singh's acquittal on a sedition charge and ordered the latter to enter his defence.

Anwar and Karpal are senior leaders in the three-party opposition PR bloc. Anwar is seen to be Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's political arch-foe in their scramble for Putrajaya in the next elections.

The Attorney-General has sole discretion on prosecutions, but Najib's BN coalition, which has held power for over five decades, is seen to wield much influence on the bureaucracy.

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