

Dr M asks if Pakatan wants to legalise sodomy
The Malaysian Insider
January 17 , 2012
By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad asked today if Pakatan Rakyat (PR) had joined its leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in advocating gay rights, pointing to how the pact had been lobbying the prosecution against appealing the Sodomy II verdict.

“Has it also become one of Pakatan’s struggles now, as what was suggested by Anwar in the BBC, that the country’s laws have become obsolete and should be amended so that sodomy is legalised according to the liberal laws of the West?” the former prime minister wrote in his blog today.

Fresh from his Sodomy II acquittal on January 9, Anwar had reportedly told a BBC interview that the laws on gay rights in Malaysia were considered “archaic” and “not relevant”.

During the interview, a BBC reporter had asked Anwar whether he was prepared to push for the idea of anti-discrimination as far as gay rights were concerned, to which he had allegedly said “we will have to review some of our archaic laws”.

“We Muslims and non-Muslims in Malaysia generally believe and are committed to support the sanctity of marriage between men and women, but we should not be seen to be punitive and consider the archaic law as relevant,” Anwar had told BBC.

Dr Mahathir (picture) also lambasted Anwar, his former deputy in government, and the latter’s opposition pact for urging the prosecution in Sodomy II against appealing the court’s not-guilty verdict.

He pointed out that if the High Court had convicted Anwar of the crime, the Opposition Leader would have likely appealed his case to the Court of Appeal and subsequently to the Federal Court and Special Court to reverse the decision.

“But when Anwar was found not guilty as there was no corroborating evidence, the right of the victim to appeal was disputed.

“Does our country’s opposition leader have special privileges in that justice only occurs when he is found not guilty?” Dr Mahathir wrote.

In the “history of Malaysia’s judiciary”, the outspoken leader added, Anwar would have emerged the victor if he were to compete with others on the number of court appeals he has filed to date.

“Is a victim of lesser status in this country not entitled to justice to a point where he cannot appeal to be heard in a higher court?

“Does the refusal of the opposition leader to swear in a mosque and during trial in court have no meaning, especially to Muslims, while the oath (sumpah laknat) of the victim is disregarded?” he added.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dr-m-asks-if-pakatan-wants-to-legalise-sodomy/>