

**Anwar 'only an invited guest' at Merdeka event, says Khalid**  
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**By Mohd Farhan Darwis**

SHAH ALAM, Sept 5 — Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim today said that Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was only an invited guest at the Selangor Merdeka eve celebrations at Dataran Shah Alam last Thursday and not the guest of honour.

Khalid was responding today to questions raised by Selangor's Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah through his private secretary, Datuk Mohamad Munir Bani, on why the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) state government had not invited the ruler but had instead invited Anwar to attend the event.

"His Highness the Sultan thought it odd why Anwar, who holds no key position in the state, was made the guest of honour as he does not hold a single official portfolio other than being an economic adviser.

"It is the norm on such occasions when His Highness is absent from official state events that the mentri besar would act as his representative," Munir said, adding, "but why was Anwar invited since this is an official state event (and) not a political one."

Khalid said today that the guest of honour for Selangor's Merdeka Month Celebration between 2003 and 2012 had always been the mentri besar.

"Only in 2007 had the Sultan of Selangor graced us with his presence as it was the 50th Merdeka eve celebration, in conjunction with Merdeka Day's Golden Jubilee.

"He (Anwar) was only a guest who gave a speech, not the guest of honour," Khalid said during the press conference after the state executive councillors (exco) meeting here today.

Khalid said he had not seen a single invitation to the Selangor Sultan for the event in the past.

"I have never seen a letter inviting the Sultan... We are still trying to find such a letter," he said.

Khalid, who is also assemblyman for Ijok, said he did not blame State Secretary Datuk Khusrin Munawi for the alleged snub and praised the latter's move to explain the situation in the exco meeting today.

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