

**Anwar: I did not ask Dr M to 'just die'**  
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**By Emily Ding**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 29 — Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has denied that he had asked former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to “just die” during a speech in Segamat on Wednesday, as reported by the New Straits Times.

Last night, he told an estimated crowd of 7,000 supporters at a pasar malam in the state constituency of Paya Jaras, within the Subang federal constituency, that he had only been responding to Dr Mahathir’s comments earlier this month on wanting to end the former’s and DAP veteran Lim Kit Siang’s political careers.

“What I said was: Mahathir said he wants to bury Kit Siang in Johor. Kit Siang’s graveyard will be in Johor. Anwar’s graveyard will be in Permatang Pauh — bury him in Permatang Pauh!” he said, reiterating Dr Mahathir’s remarks.

“I said, Mahathir is already 87 years old and he wants to think about burying other people — think about your own grave! That’s all I said. Is that wrong? I didn’t ask him to die,” he explained to loud applause.

Anwar had flown in from Sabah, and was given a hero’s welcome by the multiracial crowd to chants of “Reformasi!” and “Ini Kalilah! Ubah!”

The audience that had come out to fete Anwar was mostly Malay, reflecting the 70,000-strong population of the Paya Jaras constituency, which comprises 60 per cent Malays, 30 per cent Chinese and 10 per cent Indians.

In a jibe at his political nemesis, caretaker Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, for not being brave enough to stand up to Dr Mahathir, Anwar also said: “I want to tell Mahathir that I am not Najib. Mahathir condemns the Chinese and Indians. When Ambiga helps Bersih he threatens to take back her citizenship.

“I want to tell him, Mahathir this is the country of the rakyat, not your father’s country... and if are to lead we will have to defend every single citizen in this country.”

Expounding further on racial unity, he added: “I’m a Malay, I’m a proud Malay... but to be a proud Malay... I don’t need to condemn other people. I don’t need to threaten to burn other people’s bibles.”

“Umno always says 1 Malaysia but people who threaten to burn bibles are now supported by Umno in Kelantan. People who condemn the Hindu religion have become a candidate of Umno in Shah Alam,” he said, referring to the leaders of the Malay-rights group Perkasa, Datuk Ibrahim Ali and Datuk Zulkifli Noordin respectively.

Anwar urged the crowd to vote in the upcoming May 5 general election, and said that a vote for the federal opposition Pakatan Rakyat (PR) would be a vote for human dignity, regardless of race.

Jeffrey Tan, 55, a businessman, said he had been an opposition supporter for a long time and would continue to do so.

"Anwar is talking to the point. We need a change. Our government is too corrupted already, to be very frank. And they think we don't have any brains — they tell us what to think and what to do. But we can think for ourselves," he told The Malaysian Insider.

A 48-year-old Malay public servant, who declined to be named, also said: "I support Anwar because he is the only one who can unite all races together. He has that talent. Everyone can accept him."

Also present at the ceramah were incumbent Subang MP R. Sivarasa, Paya Jaras state seat candidate Khairuddin Othman, Bukit Lanjang state seat candidate Elizabeth Wong, and the PSM candidate for the Kota Damansara state seat Dr Mohd Nasir Hashim.

The Subang parliamentary constituency will see a five-cornered fight between Sivarasa, Barisan Nasional's (BN) A. Pakas Rao, Berjasa's Mohamad Ismail and two independents — Nazaruddin Mohamed Ferdoos and Datuk Edros Abdullah.

The Paya Jaras state seat will see a straight fight between PAS's Khairuddin Othman and Umno's Datuk Mohamad Bushro Mat Johor.

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