

Anwar denies breaching campaign rules in Kajang

Malaysian Insider

Feb 10, 2014

BY TRINNA LEONG

Opposition leader and PKR candidate for the Kajang by-election Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today that he would not entertain baseless accusations that he had broken the law by campaigning early for the seat.

Anwar said it was the Barisan Nasional which had launched an aggressive campaign against him through the media it controlled.

“You ask him to ask TV3? Whether they have not launched any vicious campaigns... every day, there are more and more heroes who are talking (about me),” Anwar told reporters at One World Hotel in Petaling Jaya today.

His statement comes as a response to police reports by some residents and statements from BN friendly parties that he had breached election laws by campaigning early.

Anwar said he would dismiss the claim even if it came from the Election Commission (EC).

“Is the EC a spokesperson for Umno or for themselves?” he said. “They don’t watch RTM and TV3 or read Utusan?”

The EC last week set the polling date for March 23 and nominations for March 11.

Umno mouthpiece Utusan Malaysia today reported that Deputy Selangor CPO Datuk Abdul Rahim Jaafar said the series of events that PKR and Anwar had done in Kajang over the last seven days was illegal.

He said the police themselves had made a police report and were investigating Anwar for breaching provisions in the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012.

“As the campaign has not started any gathering or ceramah is not allowed currently,” he told the Malay-language daily.

Over the last week, Anwar held high teas and meet-and-greet sessions between 5pm to 7pm at community halls in major housing estates and nightly ceramah (or political talks) to explain PKR’s “Kajang move”.

He had also been attending afternoon and evening prayers at surau and mosques in the constituency.

The Kajang by-election is the third since the 2013 general election, and was triggered by the resignation of PKR assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh on January 27.

In 2013, Lee garnered 19,571 votes against BN's Lee Ban Seng (12,747 votes) and Berjasa's Mohamad Ismail (1,014 votes), as well as three independent candidates. – February 10, 2014.

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