

Anwar will bring 'Mat Tyson' to Selangor government

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Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has plans to rope in Umno veteran politician and one-time ally in Umno Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib to the Selangor government once the Kajang by-election is over.

Anwar, the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) candidate, said that besides relying on the economic management skills of Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim, the state needs the expertise of Muhammad on rural programmes.

"I will call on Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib. He has skills in rural programmes," he told about 200 PKR supporters in Cheras last night.

Muhammad, also known by the moniker "Mat Tyson", had joined PAS before the 13th general election (GE13).

He resigned as menteri besar in 1997 after an Australian court charged him with falsely declaring cash amounting to RM2.4 million during his entry into the country.

He was acquitted a year later.

Muhammad's highest post in Umno was as a vice-president (2000-2003) and Umno information chief (2008-2009).

The former menteri besar, who was in office from 1986 to 1997, campaigned for PR prior to GE13 and is widely credited with PAS's success in GE13.

PAS increased its seats from eight to 15 in the Selangor assembly.

Anwar last night said the resignation of Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib Mahmud was just like "spitting on one's own face" since government leaders have chastised him over Lee Chin Cheh's resignation.

"In Sarawak, it is not a waste. It is cost-saving. Barely two weeks after they criticised PKR, he (Taib) resigned," said the Permatang Pauh MP.

Taib's resignation and elevation to the governor's post triggered a by-election for his Balingian seat.

Anwar refuted allegations that it was criminal for PKR to campaign for the Kajang seat outside the campaign period.

"I have never heard that it is wrong to campaign before the campaign period. Only in Malaysia," said Anwar.

Several residents, including police officers, have lodged reports on Anwar's meet-the-people sessions.

"So the police are investigating, go ahead. Investigations are the best method," he said.

"Later, I'll write a letter to the Home Ministry to ask them to investigate cases of robbery and snatch theft. Every time, it is just more investigations on Anwar Ibrahim." – February 13, 2014.

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