

'Kajang move' is Anwar's tactic to pressure court ahead of sodomy appeal, says Utusan Malaysian Insider
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OLEH Malaysia insider

Utusan Malaysia today claimed that PKR's real motive in triggering a by-election in Kajang is to enable Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to pressure the court ahead of his appeal on the Sodomy II case.

The paper's editorial voice Awang Selamat said the "Kajang move" was another strategy by Anwar to ensure that the court favoured him.

"For Awang, the real focus is on the appeal in the sodomy case, not on Kajang as played up by PKR," wrote Awang in Mingguan Malaysia, Utusan Malaysia's Sunday edition.

The Court of Appeal has set February 12 to hear the government's appeal on Anwar's acquittal in January last year of a charge of sodomising his former aide Saiful Bukhari Azlan

A day before the hearing, Anwar is scheduled to appeal to the Federal Court to disqualify Umno lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah from heading the government's team to overturn the acquittal.

The paper also quoted two former PKR leaders in speculating that the Kajang by-election was a "sandiwara" (soap opera) concocted by Anwar and that becoming Selangor Menteri Besar by winning the by-election was not the opposition leader's focus.

"Signs of him panicking are already clear to the point where he fears Muhammad Shafee. Even though (Anwar's former aide and alleged sodomy victim) Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan never feared facing Anwar's own lawyers, such as Karpal Singh, who is also an influential politician," wrote Awang, in the column titled "Liwat semua" (everything is sodomised).

Anwar was charged on August 7, 2008 with sodomising Mohd Saiful in what has been called the Sodomy II case.

The court acquitted Anwar of the charge more than three years later.

On January 28, PKR announced that it was fielding Anwar as candidate in the Kajang by-election, less than 24 hours after the seat was vacated when its assemblyperson Lim Chin Cheh – who is also from PKR – resigned.

The widely criticised move will enable Anwar to be a member of the Selangor legislature and pave the way for him to become Selangor menteri besar.

Among those who had criticised Anwar are two former PKR leaders, Ezam Mohd Noor and Muhammad Rahimi Osman.

Ezam, a former Anwar aide, said that the by-election “had politicised the sodomy case to maximum levels”.

Awang quoted Ezam as saying the Kajang by-election was a repeat of the Permatang Pauh by-election in August 2008, which also coincided with an important date in the Sodomy II case.

The Permatang Pauh by-election, said Awang, was held on August 26, 2008 after PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail resigned to allow Anwar, who is also her husband, to contest a parliamentary seat.

“Before that, Anwar was hauled before the Sessions Court on charges of sodomising Mohd Saiful on August 7 the same year.”

In the same column, Awang demanded the authorities act against Lee for resigning as Kajang state assemblyman, including to determine if there was any corruption involved.

“If this is not done, Awang fears that wakil rakyat will do what they like and vacate their seats. This problem is akin to allowing our democracy to be ‘sodomised’ (diliwat) because of a despicable political practice based on desire and the lust for power,” wrote Awang.

“Is everything going to be ‘sodomised’ – people, systems and values?” – February 2, 2014.

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