

Anwar turns to Indian voters in Kajang, says no fair deal under Barisan Malaysian Insider

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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today criticised the Prime Minister's continued silence over physical threats to Pakatan Rakyat politicians, citing this as an example of how Barisan Nasional does not treat all Malaysian citizens equally.

Addressing his audience outside the Sri Maha Mariamman Alayam temple in Taman Delima, Kajang, the PKR leader said in contrast, Pakatan through its state governments looked after the welfare of all communities regardless of race and religion.

"People want to slap (Seputeh MP) Teresa Kok but to this day Najib (Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak) has not said a thing.

"His ministers have not said a thing," Anwar told some 800 people in his first major gathering to address the Indian community ahead of the Kajang by-election on March 23.

The Permatang Pauh MP appears to be riding on whatever fallout generated following Hindraf leader P. Waytha Moorthy's resignation from his Cabinet post last week.

Waytha said Najib had failed to fulfil the socio-economic programmes pledged by BN in its memorandum of understanding (MoU) before the 13th general election last May.

The coalition then had promised to resolve socio-economic problems faced by the Indian community in exchange for Hindraf's support.

Kok, on the other hand, had been the target of Malay supremacist groups who are offering a reward to anyone who would slap her and provide evidence of the act.

The prime minister has remained silent over whether action will be taken against these groups, despite numerous police reports being lodged against them.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, however, said no action will be taken as the offer did not constitute a threat.

Anwar also pledged to bring up the problem of Kajang's high crime rate in Parliament next month.

"This is the number one issue I am hearing wherever I go in Kajang. I will bring this matter up and demand that the federal government solve it."

The Kajang by-election was triggered by the resignation of its state assemblyperson Lee Chin Cheh on January 27. Anwar was announced as candidate the next day.

MCA's Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun has been announced as Barisan Nasional's (BN) candidate for the March 23 by-election.

Chew spent some time in the political wilderness after quitting the government posts she held, to protest Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's victory in the race for party presidency in 2010. She promised to resign if Chua won and was not fielded in the last general election.

She bounced back after she was voted in as one of four vice-presidents alongside Datuk Lee Chee Leong, Datuk Dr Hou Kok Chung, and Datuk Chua Tee Yong.

The Kajang by-election is shaping up to be a four-corner fight as Datuk Zaid Ibrahim and Yuktes Vijay have also thrown their hats into the ring.

Zaid was a one-time Umno minister-turned-PMR member before going solo, while Yuktes was previously a legal aide for Anwar's defence in the Sodomy II trial.

Polling for the by-election has been set for March 23

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