

Anwar spells out move to defend, strengthen Selangor in first Kajang ceramah
Malaysian Insider
Feb 4, 2014
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In his first engagement with Kajang voters, opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim told them that he intended to use Selangor as Pakatan Rakyat's stepping stone to Putrajaya, while also turning Selangor into a model state for civil liberties and economic development.

"Why Selangor? And why Kajang, in the Selangor State Legislative Assembly?

"It is our plan to use Selangor as the economic gateway to Putrajaya and Kajang will help us in achieving that," Anwar said to cheers and applause, referring to the Federal administrative capital that is located about 10km from Kajang.

"We want to turn Selangor, already a model state with its economy, into a better model and a state which is strident in defending the rights of every one of Selangor's citizens" he added.

The opposition leader, who spoke for about 30 minutes at the Taman Mesra community hall, was in fiery form as he explained PKR's "Kajang move", which had not been well received initially though expectations in Kajang have now gone up several notches.

Anwar drew the loudest cheers as he assured that his plan to take Putrajaya from Kajang will not result in voters here being neglected.

"We will not to leave out Kajang from Malaysia's political map and would develop it on par with Selangor," he said.

We sincerely believe that there are not only valid but also compelling reasons why a seat has to be vacated to enable me to find a rightful and legitimate place in the State Legislative Assembly.
- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

The Permatang Pauh MP made light of a suggestion for badminton icon Datuk Lee Chong Wei to be made a candidate for Barisan Nasional (BN) in the by-election.

"If he comes here to contest, then I will certainly lose... in badminton," Anwar said, while admitting to being a huge fan of Lee, a fellow Penangite.

"Every time he plays, I would pray for his victory. If he were to contest, perhaps he would pray for my victory instead," he added in jest.

PKR's big three for Selangor are seated in front, (from left) Anwar Ibrahim, Khalid Ibrahim and Azmin Ali at the first ceramah in Kajang tonight. - The Malaysian Insider pic by Nazir Sufari, February 4, 2014. The PKR tonight put on a united front, with Anwar, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim and Selangor PKR chief Azmin Ali arriving together and sitting

side-by-side on the stage. Abdul Khalid and Azmin have long been at odds over policies in the state.

Anwar began his speech by repeating his stand that the "Kajang move" was put in action to save Selangor from falling into BN's clutches.

"We sincerely believe that there are not only valid but also compelling reasons why a seat has to be vacated to enable me to find a rightful and legitimate place in the State Legislative Assembly.

"This is not an academic issue, or, as some have alleged, some kind of fantasy conjured to scare the people.

"It is already happening and even as we speak, it is gaining momentum and intensity," Anwar said in his speech as the floor greeted it with shouts of reformasi, reformasi.

"I am not power crazy and I am not offended when people ask why I had to come to Kajang. That question is one which I owe an explanation.

"Some said I had to step in because of friction between two top PKR leaders and this is not true," Anwar said, indirectly referring to PKR's internal conflict between its deputy president Azmin and Abdul Khalid.

"I did not come here to create chaos," he said.

Anwar spent some five minutes of his speech praising Abdul Khalid's management skills, which resulted in Selangor's enviable financial reserve.

"Wherever I go, I sing praises about Selangor's performance under the watch of Abdul Khalid, including to world leaders.

"Selangor's economic track record is the best under Abdul Khalid," he said.

Abdul Khalid and Azmin also spoke, justifying that Anwar's "world-class" touch in Kajang would only serve to strengthen Pakatan Rakyat's hold on Selangor.

The usually stoic Abdul Khalid, injected some humour as he pitched Anwar's case.

"I am good in counting money but when the rakyat ask for more money, I will say there's no money," said Abdul Khalid to laughter and applause from the floor.

"But Anwar is not like that and I am not ashamed to admit this," he added.

Anwar is Pakatan Rakyat's Kajang by-election candidate after polls were triggered by the resignation of its assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh on January 27.

The Kajang state seat has 38,965 registered voters. Malays make up 48% of voters, Chinese 41%, Indian 10% and others 1%.

In the 2013 general election, PKR's Lee garnered 19,571 votes followed by Lee Ban Seng of the BN with 12,747 votes. Mohamad Ismail of Berjasa obtained 1,014 votes.

The three independent candidates who contested the seat were Mohd Iwan Jeffrey Abdul Majib (249 votes), Ong Yan Foo (85 votes) and Mohd Khalid Kassim (83 votes).

Lee won the seat with a comfortable 6,824-vote majority. – February 3, 2014.

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Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/anwar-spells-out-move-to-defend-strengthen-selangor-in-first-kajang-ceramah>