

UMS student defends burning Anwar caricature

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KOTA KINABALU: A Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) student has defended the recent anti-corruption protest where a caricature of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was burned, drawing parallels to Anwar's own activist past.

Final-year student Fadhil Kasim, in a Facebook post, recalled that Anwar — during his time as a student leader at Universiti Malaya — had led a protest that involved burning a book by Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman,

deeming it “subversive.”

Fadhil criticized Anwar's supporters, including groups like Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (Abim) and Angkatan Muda KeAdilan (AMK), for condemning the recent protest while allegedly prioritizing political loyalty over public concerns.

The Gempur Rasuah 2.0 Rally at Lintasan Deasoka in Gaya Street, where Fadhil and a friend burned the caricature, aimed to spotlight issues such as corruption in Sabah and water shortages affecting UMS

students.

“People attacked our actions, questioning our morals, but ignored the real issues — corruption and the people's struggles,” he said.

Fadhil suggested that Anwar might have understood their actions if he reflected on his own activist history in the 1970s. “But that's wishful thinking. Now, he's the Prime Minister, not a student,” he added.

He also noted that Anwar, as opposition leader, frequently addressed Sabah's problems,

including corruption and infrastructure neglect.

“Now, he seems more focused on maintaining GRS (Gabungan Rakyat Sabah) in his Madani administration, despite its corruption scandals,” Fadhil said.

Ending his post, he identified himself as “the student who burned Anwar's caricature” and included the line: “Madani: Protector of Sabah's corrupt.”

The post featured a black-and-white photo of Anwar from his student days, burning an object during a protest.