

12 NOV 1999

Azizah-Contest

WAN AZIZAH CONFIRMS CONTESTING IN POLLS BUT UNDECIDED WHERE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail today confirmed contesting in the Nov 29 general election but has not decided where.

She said she would be contesting in either Permatang Pauh, Kubang Pasu or Lembah Pantai parliamentary constituency.

Her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was the MP for Permatang Pauh before the dissolution of Parliament while Kubang Pasu was represented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Youth and Sports Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Shahrizat Jalil was the Lembah Pantai MP.

"I may contest in Permatang Pauh, Kubang Pasu or Lembah Pantai but I'm unable to tell you now in which constituency I will stand. Wait till the nomination day (Nov 20)," she told a news conference in her house at Bukit Damansara here.

Asked why she had not decided on where to contest, she said: "We've a committee that will study several criteria to be fulfilled by aspiring candidates."

Wan Azizah said her party would campaign on issues pertaining to justice for all, corruption, abuse of power by government leaders and transparent administration.

"These have been the thrust of our party struggle. It's up to the voters to give their mandate. We only hope they make the right choice," she said.

She said the so-called Alternative Front comprising Keadilan, DAP, PAS and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) were prepared for the election.

"We are as prepared as we can be. As a new front, we are at the strongest point so far," she said.

Wan Azizah also said she met Anwar at the Sungai Buloh prison this morning.

"When I saw Anwar this morning, he told me to work hard. This is a tough time but he really feels that we can make a go for it," she said.

Asked to comment on the resignation of Keadilan's Wanita chief Nell Datuk Onn, Azizah said her retreat had no major impact on the party.

"I've no complaints. She may have her own reasons to quit although her decision came as a shock to us.

"But she has left behind a strong basis to be pursued by the party's echelon leaders," she said.

Asked on the possibility of more Keadilan members following Nell's footsteps or crossing over to other parties, she said party-hopping was normal in politics.

"Well, it's normal...there are also PAS members joining Umno and vice-versa," she said.

Nell, the younger sister of former Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn, sent her resignation letter yesterday. Her resignation was effective Nov 4.

-- BERNAMA

JAY NHA TS