

## **PKR to launch first-ever election convention**

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In an effort to prep themselves for the next general election, PKR will also be holding an election convention, the first of its kind for any political party in the country.

Announcing this, party deputy president and elections director Azmin Ali (right) said that the convention to be held this weekend will see the launch of the election campaign, logo and the theme.

Unveiling this at a press conference at the party headquarters this morning, he said that the theme for the upcoming general election will be 'Demi Rakyat' (For The People).

"This is the first by any political party in Malaysia to specifically launch a campaign and a theme," he said, adding that he expects 2,000 delegates from all over the country to converge for the convention in Shah Alam this Sunday.

With a prediction of a July snap polls, he said that it should give the delegates enough time to prepare themselves as well as the party machinery at the grassroots.

However, when asked by a reporter, Azmin said that he was not worried that launching an election campaign this early would give the opposing parties enough time to rebut their strategy.

"We don't know when is the date for the election is so we have to be prepared for any eventuality. We still believe that the Najib Abdul Razak administration will call for an election in July so we have a month to get our machinery on track," he said.

"It is in our conviction, that we strongly believe in the policies of PKR. If BN wants to usurp the policies in Buku Jingga, I don't mind, let them do it. In the interest of the people, I'm more than glad for the prime minister to use it," he said.

But hitting out at the election date that is being shrouded in secrecy, Azmin, who is also the Gombak MP, said the date appears to be in the sole possession of the prime minister.

"In South-East Asian countries like Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, people already know the election date two years beforehand. But it is so different in Malaysia. Anyway, as a political party, PKR has to be ready for the eventuality of a general election.

"PKR will go in with humility, a strong spirit and hope that we will put up a good fight for the next general election," he said.

### **PKR still mum on HQ status**

Meanwhile, claiming ignorance, Azmin let out few details on the status of the party headquarters after they experienced a close shave to the HQ building being auctioned off.

When asked, he said: "Well you're still in the building, we're still operating in the HQ. Let the due process take place."

An eleventh-hour notice was sent to the party leadership just a day before the building where the HQ sits in the upmarket Petaling Jaya suburb of Tropicana was supposed to be auctioned off by the bank.

The owner had apparently taken out an injunction to stop the sale, where it was understood that they have defaulted on 30 months worth of loans.

“Don't put the blame on us, we're just the tenant. We're good paymasters, paying RM20,000 in rental every month,” said Azmin.

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