

'Najib has targetted three young Pakatan candidates'

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By Abdul Rahim Sabri

PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim claimed that he has information that BN chairperson Najib Abdul Razak has directed the federal coalition to unseat three young Pakatan Rakyat candidates in the Klang valley in coming elections.

"They are Nurul Izzah at Lembah Pantai, Rafizi Ramli at Pandan and Tony Pua at Petaling Jaya (Utara)," he told a 4,000-strong crowd at Bandar Tun Razak last night.

Anwar (left) said Pua was hard to be brought down as 90 percent of the Petaling Jaya Utara parliamentary constituency's electorate is Chinese.

However, it will be an uphill battle for his eldest daughter Nurul Izzah and the party's election strategist Rafizi which require the support of the people there, he stressed.

"Some people asked me to give a safe seat to her (Nurul Izzah). I went back and discussed with her, and she said 'no papa, they are my people, I will defend Lembah Pantai'," he said.

Besides his eldest daughter, Anwar also announced another four PKR candidates in the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur - Tian Chua (Batu,) Abdul Khalid Ibrahim (Bandar Tun Razak), Dr Tan Kee Kwong (Wangsa Maju) and Ibrahim Yaacob (Setiawangsa).

Nurul Izzah, Tian and Khalid are incumbents.

Overflowing with confidence

Ibrahim is the son of former Kuala Lumpur mayor Yaacob Latif who held the post between 1973 and 1983.

He contested Setiawangsa in 2008 but was defeated by Umno's Zulhasnan Rafique by a majority of 8,134 votes.

The former chief executive officer of a private company has been working as a volunteer at Anwar's office since six years ago.

Tan, a former deputy minister and the son of prominent opposition politician Tan Chee Khoo, abandoned Gerakan in 2008.

He will replace incumbent MP Wee Choo Keong as PKR candidate in Wangsa Maju. Wee won the seat by a wafer-thin majority of 150 votes but later left the party to become a pro-BN Independent MP.

Met after the announcement, Ibrahim told Malaysiakini that he is confident of capturing

Setiawangsa.

Setiawangsa has some 12,500 army voters who voted via post, the highest in the country. If not for these postal votes, PKR would have snatched the seat in 2008.

Ex-soldiers' role may be decisive

Ibrahim (right) said PKR could spring a surprise in the constituency if 5,000 of the postal voters favoured him.

"Now some army voters will vote through post but some will vote in advance just like ordinary voting. Hence with God's blessing the victory will go to Pakatan."

He added that the five former armed forces leaders who recently joined Pakatan will help the coalition garner more support from the security forces.

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