

Pua: Pakatan doomed if Anwar loses Kajang
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DAP Selangor chairperson Tony Pua said that if Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim fails to regain Kajang seat in the by-election, this would also spell the end of Pakatan Rakyat.

Underlining what's really at stake in the single state assembly seat election on March 23, Pua warned that should Anwar (left) be defeated, the coalition party's fight would lose steam and the seeds of discord would then be sown.

"If we lose in Kajang, it's not only the end of Anwar's political career. It's also the end of Pakatan Rakyat as we know it ... also the movement for change and reformation for the years to come.

"I anticipate BN and Umno will be shooting all kinds of bullets at Anwar," Pua said at the 'Kajang move' forum in Subang last night.

However, Pua qualified that this was his personal opinion and not that of DAP.

Yet others who were present at the forum, including former Bar Council chairperson Ambiga Sreenevasan, differed.

Ambiga (right) said that Pakatan Rakyat should be made of sterner stuff as surely the coalition of DAP, PKR and PAS had more than one leader with national calibre.

In response, Pua reiterated that the issue was about a loss of momentum for the opposition's fight.

"Will we (Pakatan) rise again six or eight years later, with a new leader to lead us, yes, I am sure. But the momentum will be lost.

"Don't underestimate the Kajang by-election. BN will use all issues including race and religion to fish for votes. Umno will say one thing to the Malays and MCA will say another to the Chinese," Pua, who is also the Petaling Jaya Utara MP, said.

Meanwhile, also at the forum, PKR director of strategy Rafizi Ramli said he was unperturbed that the Election Commission had stretched the polling date to a near maximum of the 60 days allowed, saying he viewed the matter positively.

The seat was unexpectedly vacated by PKR assemblyperson Lee Chin Cheh on Jan 27, to make way for Anwar to contest.

Rafizi emphasised that he has explained enough about the "Kajang move" and it was now up to voters to decide.

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