

PKR Youth team linked to Azmin lead in party polls
MalaysiaKini.com
May 3, 2014

It's a close fight to lead the PKR Youth wing but those aligned to incumbent deputy chief Azmin Ali have the edge so far in the party's polls.

So far, results have revealed that 16 vying for the top 20 posts in the wing's executive committee, and who are leading the race, are aligned to the Amirudin Shari-Afif Bahardin camp.

Amirudin (left with Afif), the Batu Cave assemblyperson and his intended deputy, Afif, the Seberang Jaya assemblyperson, are considered "Azmin's men".

But Afif, who is also Penang executive councillor, played the link to Azmin down. He said the team, with its campaign slogan, AMK Baru, is ahead because it's a team that is "solid, with good networking at grassroots level", and this has translated into votes.

"The team is constantly working together, keeping in touch with the members and that is probably why it is getting the support it has so far," said Afif, a medical doctor turned PKR politician.

However, Afif sees the race as tough as there are two other key challengers - Seri Setia assemblyman and Selangor deputy speaker Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, and incumbent PKR Youth vice-chief Mohd Nazree Yunus.

As at April 27, results reveal that Amirudin is leading with 777 votes, closely followed by Nik Nazmi, (739) and Mohd Nazree Yunus, (720).

In the race for PKR Youth deputy chief, Afif is leading with 951 votes, followed by Teja assemblyman Chang Lih Lang with 698 votes.

"The newly amended constitution which limits the age of PKR Youth leaders to 35, shows the party is vibrant and has a great future. It also shows PKR enjoys a broad base of young voters which is why there is a three corner fight for the post of Youth chief," said Afif.

Amirudin has access to grassroots members due to his post as PKR state secretary, while Afif has made his mark in Penang by being the youngest state exco for health, agriculture and rural development.

Afif also made his mark when he managed to seize the Seberang Jaya state seat from Umno in the May 5 general election last year, to increase PKR's representation in Penang from 10 to 11 seats. DAP holds 19 and PAS, one.

Since April 25, voting has concluded in Sarawak, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor and Malacca, with the remaining states - Sabah, Penang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor, Putrajaya and Federal Territory - to be concluded by May 11.

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