

PAS leader: Anwar will not seek royal pardon

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Similar to his first conviction, Anwar Ibrahim has maintained that the second charge against him is also a fabrication.

Therefore, PAS lawmaker Khalid Samad (below) believes that the opposition leader would not seek a royal pardon.

Terming it as his personal opinion, he said for Anwar to do so would amount to an admission of guilt.

"I don't know about the details but I am confident that Anwar will not make the application as it will convey the meaning that he is guilty," the Shah Alam MP told reporters.

Even during his first prison sentence, Anwar had opted not to seek a royal pardon.

If he gets a royal pardon, Anwar will be able to retain his MP status.

The seat will only be declared vacant after the period for the petition to get a royal pardon has lapsed.

It will lapse 14 days after his conviction on Tuesday for sodomising his aide Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan in 2008.

Article 48 of the federal constitution states that an MP is disqualified if he is jailed for no less than two years or fined not less than RM2,000 and is did not get a royal pardon.

On Tuesday, when the Federal Court upheld his sodomy conviction and five-year jail sentence, the PKR de facto leader launched a scathing condemnation of the judges from the dock.

Among others, he had accused them of doing the bidding of their political masters.

The government, on the other hand, denied the allegation of a collusion, claiming that the courts are independent.

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