

**Youth leader: Anwar meddling in party polls**  
**Malaysiakini.com**  
**May 21, 2007**  
**Muda Mohd Noor**

Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) adviser Anwar Ibrahim has been accused of meddling in the party elections, which will be held later this week.

Youth secretary SD Johari, who made the accusation, has decided not to contest for the wing deputy chief post as a mark of protest against the alleged interference by Anwar.

He claimed that Anwar, who will contest for presidency in the May 25 polls, asked acting Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Md Akin to 'find ways' to ensure that Johari loses.

According to the disgruntled leader, he received 42 nominations - the highest for Youth deputy chief - while his nearest contender Feriz Musa received 11 nominations.

"I am disappointed with Anwar's interference in the Youth elections, which is supposed to be decided by the delegates from the 82 divisions around the country," he told malaysiakini today.

Johari claimed that Anwar is not happy with him because of his close ties with former Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor and his open criticism against the PKR adviser during the recent Ijok by-election.

He also believes that there is an attempt to sideline those close to Ezam in the Youth wing.

However, Anwar, when met at a function later in the day, denied meddling in the party polls.

"I do not interfere. It's up to the delegates to elect whoever they want," he said.

### **Criticism will continue**

Following Johari's withdrawal, the deputy Youth chief post will witness a three-cornered fight between Feriz, Zamakhsari Ibrahim and Ahmad Zaki Yamani.

Whereas the Youth chief post will see a tussle between Shamsul Iskandar dan PKR Parit Sulong division chief, Hasmi Hashim.

Meanwhile, Johari also claimed that several candidates for the Youth vice-chief post will also withdraw to protest against Anwar's alleged interference.

The candidates, he explained, are disappointed because Anwar cannot accept those with differing opinions and the courage to criticise him.

However, Johari said he will not tone down and vowed to continue his criticisms against Anwar and other party leaders who err. He is prepared to face any form of action, including dismissal.

"As for my future in the party, I will wait until after the (party) congress (May 25-27). I will work closer with the Movement for Democracy and Anti-Corruption (Gerak) set up by Ezam.

"I am not fighting for positions, my struggle started with the aim to uphold justice when Anwar was sacked from his deputy prime minister post on Sept 2, 1998," he added.

Apart from the Youth positions, PKR's top post will see a three-cornered fight between Anwar, his wife and incumbent Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and former treasurer Abdul Rahman Othman.

The number two post was retained without contest by incumbent Dr Syed Husin Ali after Azmin Ali pulled out and decided to defend his vice-president post instead.

Previously, PKR Kepong division chief S Nallakaruppan withdrew from contesting for vice-presidency despite receiving the second highest number of nominations.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.  
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/67518>