

**Anwar's 'meddling': Over 30 to boycott  
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Yoges Palaniappan**

More than 30 nominees will boycott the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) elections due to the alleged interference by party adviser Anwar Ibrahim, said PKR Youth secretary SD Johari Yassin today.

Calling it a "big protest," he said: "We have nominees from all levels withdrawing from the elections."

Johari (photo) himself has decided not to run for the Youth deputy chief post. The elections will be held later this week in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan.

According to him, 100 out of the 132 nominated for the exco posts have pulled out.

However, he said those who are boycotting the elections because of Anwar's interference numbered "more than 30".

"This (alleged interference) is not a healthy for democracy in the party. Nominations at the division level must be respected," he told a press conference at the PKR headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Unfortunate situation**

Commenting on his decision to withdraw despite receiving the highest number of nominations, Johari said: "I made the decision based on my principle that the Youth wing must be left independent without any interference from the top level management."

"My decision was also followed by my peers who do not agree with the interference, and they too are withdrawing from the elections," he added.

Among them, he said, is Sharifah Sharidah Syed Kamarulzaman who received the most nominations for the vice-president's post. "This is very unfortunate for the party."

Johari, who previously claimed that Anwar wanted him to fail in his bid for the Youth deputy chief post, said he does not know why the party adviser is prejudiced against him.

"I don't know why he (Anwar) must pressure me, when I'm a person who has worked hard for the party's development.

"Is it because I have a very close relationship with (former Youth chief) Ezam Mohd Noor and need to be sidelined?" he asked.

### **Reveal proof**

Johari also said there is no rationale in Anwar considering him as a rival.

"I'm nothing. He can choose to voice out against people on par with him, for instance (Deputy

Prime Minister) Najib Abdul Razak," he added.

On this note, he also challenged Anwar to reveal the evidence to back his allegations against Najib, which ranged from kickbacks from a submarine deal to the murder of a Mongolian national.

"I challenge him to do it now as it is the right time if he really has all the evidence. Everyone wants to win the (general) election, and if you have the last card, bare it," he said.

Asked to comment on Anwar's denial of interfering in the party elections, Johari said: "Anyone can say anything and deny it later."

"I have witness who can clarify the interference. The person who was ordered to sideline me contacted me. And I don't act based on rumors," he added.

Previously, it was reported that Anwar had allegedly asked acting Youth chief Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin to find ways to ensure Johari's defeat.

### **Double standards**

Johari stressed that he will continue working for the opposition party but vowed to speak out against any wrongdoings.

"I strongly disagree with the internal politics happening in the party," he said, claiming there were double standards being practiced.

Citing exco member Zamil Ibrahim as an example, he said Zamil who was nominated for exco was disqualified because he was a bankrupt.

"If you follow exactly what the law states, even Anwar does not qualify to contest," he noted, referring to the party adviser's five-year ban from active politics.

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