

Zaid Ibrahim to run for PKR No 2
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After much speculation Zaid Ibrahim has finally confirmed that he will be contesting for the party deputy president's post.

The PKR supreme council member had tongues wagging earlier when he announced his intention to run for one of the leadership posts, but had not specified which.

According to media reports, Zaid (left) announced his decision to run for PKR No 2 during a breaking of fast function at Kuantan on Saturday, where it was reported he broke the news to 30 Pahang liaison committee and party members who were present.

The former de facto law minister however qualified that it would also depend on the support he gets during nomination day, and admitted that he was unclear how much he would eventually receive.

Candidature for the No 2 post was originally expected only after incumbent Syed Husin Ali was due to announce his intention to step down, sometime after Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

However, with Zaid's announcement focus will shift towards who his rivals will be. Selangor PKR chief Azmin Ali is widely speculated to be the chief contender.

The others expected to enter the ring include fellow supreme council member and vice-president Mustapha Kamil Ayub and Khalid.

Goaded into contesting

Zaid had originally pledged to stay out of the party leadership polls, but on Sept 1 turned around to announce his intention to contest.

However, he stated that he would do so only on condition that Khalid Ibrahim had no intention of contesting for the same post as he, out of deference to the Selangor MB.

He said that he changed his mind because of endless attacks from his detractors, that did not stop despite his announcement not to join the fray.

"If they are going to attack relentlessly, I might as well enter the ring. Some say, if you are going to be beaten up, make it worth the while," he said.

PKR's 218 divisions will hold two separate meetings - the first to elect divisional leaders next month, and a second meeting to vote for 26 supreme council members as well as president, deputy president and four vice-presidents.

The divisions will vote for top national leaders on weekends from Oct 29 to Nov 21.

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