

Nik Nazmi: 'Loyal deputy' is Zaid's latest gimmick
Malaysiakini.com
September 20, 2010

PKR communications director Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad has dismissed Zaid Ibrahim's pledge to become a loyal deputy to the party president as a mere gimmick.

"Now, the latest gimmick is to return (the) president's power. Hopefully he will also have more organisational discipline and collective responsibility," said Nik Nazmi on his Twitter page.

Nik Nazmi's retort comes just hours after Zaid Ibrahim pledged to become party president Dr Wan Azizah Ismail's deputy and help her exercise her legitimate authority, in a posting on his blog.

Zaid had argued that some party leaders had regarded Wan Azizah as a mere figurehead while the president's powers were assumed by de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim.

He argued that the party president's powers as defined by the party constitution should be upheld rather than to entrust those powers to Anwar, whom Zaid explains is really just an ordinary member.

Nik Nazmi said that Zaid's statement was misguided and that he failed to understand the background as to why Anwar was made de facto leader in the first place.

'Do your homework first'

"If only he checked with the members who were at the 2007 PKR congress who understood why the exceptional position was created (for Anwar).

"I forgot - he (Zaid) was still in Umno at the time... Now (he criticises) Umno culture! Well done," wrote Nik Nazmi sarcastically.

In 2007, Anwar was in a three-corner fight for the party presidency against Wan Azizah and Abdul Rahman Othman. Anwar and Abdul Rahman withdrew from the contest at the last minute, paving way for Wan Azizah to win uncontested.

Anwar had explained at the time that he had to withdraw from the contest because he may be in violation of the Societies Act 1966.

According to the Act, Anwar who was released from jail in 2004 was prohibited from holding any party post for five years; in other words, up until April 2008.

Despite calls by supporters at the time to challenge the ban on the grounds that it was unjust, Anwar decided to accept the prohibition.

The 2007 party congress as a result agreed to crown Anwar de facto leader, a post that the Registrar of Societies does not recognise.

