

**Sec-gen: Zaid 'withdrawal' still being studied**  
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The PKR central elections committee will decide whether to accept deputy president aspirant Zaid Ibrahim's sudden withdrawal from the party elections soon.

Secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (left) said that they have to decide before this weekend because the ballot papers may need to be sent for reprinting.

"They will have to decide whether whatever he posted on his blog is valid or not. But as far as I'm concerned, there is no black and white from him on withdrawing from party elections," he said.

Thus far, no one has officially withdrawn from the polls, said Saifuddin.

Speaking during a press conference at the party headquarters, Saifuddin also reiterated that the elections committee has only received six complaints, and not 162 as claimed by some.

No money for transparent boxes

He said two were from Zaid's camp and the balance were by four other party members.

"In Zaid's latest complaint dated Oct 5, he had outlined seven suggestions. We implemented six. That itself is very good already, considering he thinks that we are working against him," said Saifuddin.

"The only thing that we didn't implement is the request for transparent ballot boxes, and that is because we don't have enough money."

He added that he has yet to receive the memorandum from another deputy president candidate Mustaffa Kamil Ayub to halt the party elections.

"No one gave any memorandum, no one received any memorandum," he said, adding that the elections committee as well as the secretariat cannot act without an official complaint being lodged.

No action on Zaid, yet

When asked if Zaid's recent outburst against the party leadership in the party elections had contravened the elections committee's code of ethics, Saifuddin refused to answer.

"I must wait until I get an official complaint on it, and then I'll act on it. But I cannot work based on feelings," he said.

He had also refused to comment on Zaid's earlier statements blaming the party problems on de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim and vice-president Azmin Ali.

"That is already a political statement from him, I am only here to talk about the process of the party polls," he said.

But when asked on whether the elections committee and the secretariat are offended by

Zaid's charges that they have been unprofessional and biased in implementing the party's first direct elections, Saifuddin had some choice words for Zaid.

"That is Zaid's trademark. He makes media statements on the party leaders. I think that is why his votes are little.

"I think that it is the party members who are quietly evaluating him through their votes," he said.

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