

New blog bids to blot Zaid's campaign for No.2
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COMMENT The tide seems to be getting rougher for Parti Keadilan Rakyat's Zaid Ibrahim as he steps up his campaign in his bid for the PKR No. 2 spot. An anti-Zaid blog has come up, virtually overnight, to "Save PKR" from what it says, "an outsider bent on destroying the party."

The blog, which mushroomed into being on Saturday, has several caustic postings that are obviously aimed at the former de facto law minister and Umno member.

"This blog was born out of the intention to save PKR from being destroyed by a person sponsored by greedy and voracious businessmen", reads one posting.

It went on to say that the blog "will publish exposes after exposes over who this person is. To the readers and whomever who wants to share information on the evils of this person above, please email antizaid@gmail.com."

The sudden appearance of the blog seems to confirm Zaid's earlier fears and complaints that he is being targeted to ruin his chances for the party's deputy presidency.

Some weeks back, Zaid had said that a prominent blogger had been asked to write that he (Zaid) was prepared to pay RM20,000 to every division that nominates him and to say that "I am working for Tun Daim Zainuddin to destroy Parti Keadilan Rakyat."

To date, PKR vice-president Azmin Ali leads with 39 nominations while Zaid only has about half his count at 19 as the vice-presidency race got underway.

"My loyalty was also questioned by some PKR MPs, but loyalty to whom, it was never explained. Maybe I am not loyal to the party struggle or to the top leadership. I don't know," said the 59-year-old veteran lawyer who is keeping his wits about him as he continues his campaign.

When informed of the latest blog "Save Keadilan" on Tuesday, the PKR supreme council member said that he was initially surprised but then he laughed it off.

"I kind of expected it... this is an all-out attack against me," he told news *portal* The Malaysian Insider.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/anti-zaid-blog-up-to-down-him/>

He went on to add that when he put his name forward for deputy president, the smear campaign started to surface.

"That is the theme of the campaign... that I am an outsider and the party has to be saved from me," he said, adding that he felt that many leaders were apprehensive of his entry into PKR in June last year.

Zaid broke ranks with Umno in 2008 over the ISA arrests of DAP's Teresa Kok and a journalist. He quit his cabinet post. He joined PKR after he was sacked from Umno.

"But it is ok. I will respond to the attacks as they come but I will not do the same thing. For me to want to destroy PKR does not make sense... for what?"

"For me to save it from people who are not making significant contributions to the reform movement, now that is quite clear since I joined," he told the news portal.

Zaid explained that he wanted to set up a "different political culture in the party and a more goal-based objective to reform the party, sharpen Pakatan Rakyat's game and subsequently win over Putrajaya."

"So if people do not like that... then... selambalah," he said, and laughed.

Zaid is said to be representing the party "grassroots" while Azmin Ali, his main opponent, is said to be the heir apparent of party leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Observers say that the contest in the party is a good sign that democracy is alive and well in the new opposition party.

But the way the campaigns are being run could give the impression that politicking within the new party is seeing the same old tricks being played out all over again.

The 'smear campaign' if one wants to call it that is something that most PKR members can ill afford to suffer or tolerate. . . if they want to see meaningful changes, well, from A to Z in the party.

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