

Will more PKR polls candidates quit party race?
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NEWS FOCUS PETALING JAYA - Zaid Ibrahim's decision to withdraw from the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) deputy presidential race may be the trigger for more frustrated candidates to follow suit.

According to The Star, it was learnt that several candidates vying for top positions including in the Wanita and Youth wings are planning to quit the race, complaining that the party leadership failed to address allegations of vote manipulation.

Many are said to be frustrated because they claim certain quarters are tampering with the electoral process.

The group is expected to call for a press conference Tuesday to announce the decision.

Zaid, who left Umno to join PKR early last year, made the announcement to withdraw from the race and quit all party posts through his blog Monday.

He was PKR political bureau member, Federal Territory chief and Wangsa Maju division chief.

In his announcement, he criticised the party leadership for condoning malpractices and electoral fraud to achieve its objectives.

Zaid had many times prior to his announcement asked the party to address what he termed as blatant vote manipulation in the ongoing national election.

The last straw for him was the alleged glaring irregularities that had taken place during the Libaran, Tawau and Sandakan elections over the weekend where the voter turnout was said to be barely 100, but fellow deputy president candidate Azmin Ali got 881, 553 and 470 votes, respectively.

Party secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and other party leaders have denied all claims of vote manipulation.

"Azmin can have the post. I quit," Zaid said in his blog posting.

Separately, former PKR deputy secretary-general P. Jenapala claimed that there were two cases of "outright fraud" in Sabah over the weekend.

Kulim Bandar Baru MP Zulkifli Noordin said Zaid's decision to quit the race and all party posts was expected.

He said the PKR leadership would do anything to take over Putrajaya and Zaid was seen as obstructing the journey and needed to be cut off. - The Star

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