

PKR's Abdul Rahman quits party to join Pas

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KUALA LUMPUR: Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) stalwart Abdul Rahman Othman has quit the party and will soon be joining Pas.

The former deputy president of Parti Keadilan Nasional — a party that merged with Parti Rakyat Malaysia to form the current PKR — said he had applied to be a Pas member under the party's Subang Jaya division in Selangor, and was waiting for a decision.

He declined to give a reason why he was quitting the party.

"That episode is over. I am now looking forward to continuing my struggle with Pas," said Abdul Rahman.

In the last PKR election two months ago, he made a last-

minute decision to withdraw his bid to contest the party presidency.

Known to be close to PKR adviser and de-facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Abdul Rahman had in the past reportedly criticised the party leadership for failing to address its internal problems.

It was Anwar's sacking as deputy prime minister nine years ago that led to the Reformasi movement and the birth of Keadilan.

Aside from serving as the deputy president, Abdul Rahman had also served as the party's supreme council member and party treasurer.

Pas deputy president Nasharuddin Mat Isa said his party welcomed Abdul Rahman.

"We have accepted his in-

tention to join in principle, but a decision can only be made during Pas' next central committee meeting on July 14," said Nasharuddin.

Pas secretary-general Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar said he had yet to receive Abdul Rahman's application.

"We will process it accordingly once we get it and we regard this as just a routine membership application," he said.

Abdul Rahman's departure from PKR comes two days after Ezam Mohd Noor's.

Ezam who was PKR's former Youth chief, quit the party on Tuesday.

Ezam said that he left PKR because party leaders failed to resolve "petty" internal politicking.

He had in recent months also admitted to having differ-

ences with PKR officials, including vice-president Azmin Ali, another key Anwar associate.

Ezam also said yesterday that "friends" from both Umno as well as Pas had approached him and asked him to consider joining them.

Abdul Rahman and Ezam are part of a group of key personalities who were close to Anwar who have quit PKR, which leads to questions on how serious the rift in the party is.

The others were former party secretary-general Anuar Tahir, supreme council member Saari Sungib and vice-president Saifuddin Natusion Ismail.

All three are now in Pas.

Anuar was recently appointed to the party's central committee.