

Keadilan founders now active in Pas

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KOTA BARU: In recent years, three founder members of Parti Keadilan Nasional have quietly crossed over to Pas and two of them have vied for positions in Pas' central committee.

Parti Keadilan Nasional was formed by supporters of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and later merged with Parti Rakyat Malaysia to form Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

The three are former Keadilan secretary-general Anuar Tahir, supreme council member Saari Sungib and vice-president Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

All are key Anwar supporters who played substantial roles in the establishment of Keadilan, but were later reported to have become disillusioned with the party.

Anuar and Saari were candidates in yesterday's Pas elections for supreme council positions.

"I'm still close to my former colleagues in PKR," said Anuar, who left Keadilan shortly after the 2004 general election, due to what he described as "some problems".

Anuar, a former secretary-general of the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia or Abim, which Anwar founded, is now a member of Pas Padang Besar division in Perlis.

Saari, a reformasi activist who was a former leader of the Jemaah Islah Malaysia (JIM), a non-governmental or-



Anuar Tahir says he left Keadilan for Pas because of 'some problems'

ganisation, had served as a supreme council member of Keadilan.

Many members from both Abim and JIM joined Keadilan during its inception, forming two powerful blocs in the party.

But their influence gradually waned, especially after the party's merger with PRM.

Saifuddin, who was recently appointed PKR's director of strategy — a post that involves the co-ordination of election strategies for the party — was widely assumed to be a PKR member. But, he too confirmed that he was a Pas member.

"I was asked by Anwar to play a bigger part in mainstream politics to further strengthen the opposition," he said, adding that he had informed Anwar that he was now a Pas member.