

Invitation by PAS to Anwar

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Contest in Kelantan in next polls

PETALING JAYA: PAS has asked Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to contest in Kelantan in the next general election and let his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail defend his Permatang Pauh stronghold.

Kelantan Legislative Assembly speaker Datuk Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah said Anwar, who is Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) advisor, was free to contest the Kota Baru seat.

"He has a good chance of winning in Kota Baru because the three state seats under the parliamentary area are held by PAS assemblymen," said Wan Abdul Rahim.

Kota Baru is now held by Barisan Nasional's Datuk Zaid Ibrahim.

Wan Abdul Rahim said PKR was likely to be given three parliamentary and two state seats in Kelantan in the general election.

The parliamentary seats are Kota Baru, Tanah Merah and Ketereh while the state seats are Paloh and Nenggiri.

On Anwar's call for PAS and DAP to cooperate with PKR in the polls, Wan Abdul Rahim, who is known as a party strategist, said: "Our relationship with PKR is very clear. It is our sole partner in the Barisan Alternatif."

Anwar can only contest if elections are held after April 2008.

He is widely expected to contest in Permatang Pauh now held by Dr Wan Azizah.

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said DAP would not work with PAS "under any circumstances" unless it dropped its Islamic state ideology.

"I confirm that DAP is working with PKR but maintain the stand that we are not working with PAS," he said when contacted yesterday on Anwar's call for

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DATUK WAN ABDUL RAHIM
WAN ABDULLAH

DAP to work closely with both PKR and PAS in the next general election.

DAP pulled out of the Barisan Alternatif after the 1999 general election, when the partnership resulted in it losing badly in the polls.

Party chairman Karpal Singh said PKR could not have the "best of both worlds" and must choose either the DAP or PAS as its ally.

He said the party would not collaborate with PKR as long as PAS was in the picture.

However, he said he was prepared to work with PKR, which was a multiracial party.