

Anwar to defy ruling by ROS

Three-way contest for PKR's top post likely

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SEREMBAN: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has been told not to contest for the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) presidency by the Registrar of Societies (ROS) but he will defy the ruling and stand for election today.

This means that it will be a three-way contest and Anwar will vie for the seat against his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the incumbent, and former deputy president Abdul Rahman Othman.

Anwar's political coordinator Sim Tze Tzin told reporters that Anwar had called up the ROS and was told that his candidacy had been denied.

"He has appealed against the decision to the Home Ministry as he thinks it is a deliberate ploy to stop his candidacy. He will go ahead and contest anyway," he said.

Anwar, who was released from jail in September 2004, is banned from holding any political post until April 2008.

He has appealed to the ROS for an exception to be made as under the Societies Act, a waiver can be granted.

With Wan Azizah being fielded as a candidate for the party's top post, there is still a pos-

sibility that Anwar could withdraw at the eleventh hour and allow for a straight fight between his wife and Abdul Rahman.

Another strategy being considered by the party is for Anwar to contest and allow the ROS to disqualify him if he wins.

The party would then appeal against the decision which could take months and after April next year, it would hold an extraordinary general meeting to enable Anwar to be re-elected legitimately to the post.

Another possibility is for Dr Wan Azizah to pull out of the contest today, forcing a straight fight between Anwar and Abdul Rahman.

Dr Syed Husin Ali has won the deputy president's post uncontested.

The candidates for three vice-presidency posts are Azmin Ali, Lee Boon Chai, Fuziah Salleh, Mustafa Kamil Ayob, Dr Jeffrey Kitingan and Dr Xavier Jeyakumar.

Yesterday, the PKR Youth assembly ran into a slight hitch with polling for the wing being delayed for more three hours.

Delegates were supposed to cast their votes at 2.30pm. The assembly then proceeded with the debates and voting only started at 6.10pm when the list was found.

Dr Syed Husin said there was no sabotage and it was only a technical problem.

The PKR Wanita elections went on smoothly.