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**Anwar Ibrahim, 64
& Wan Azizah, 59**

The acquittal of Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on sodomy charges in January was the latest incident in a long drawn-out controversy surrounding the man's political career.

Anwar, once tipped to become the next prime minister of Malaysia, was ousted from his party, beaten, and jailed in 1998. Fourteen years after first being accused of sodomy, Anwar has once again got his sights set on Malaysia's top job.

Anwar used to be considered a likely successor to former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad but a fallout between the two leaders more than a decade ago shattered Anwar's chances.

In 1999, Anwar was jailed on corruption charges and in 2000 he was convicted on sodomy charges. Anwar denied any wrongdoing, describing the charges as a political ploy to prevent him from returning and leading a resurgent opposition to victory.

Wan Azizah has been Anwar's pillar of strength throughout his stormy political career. In her husband's absence, Wan Azizah, a doctor by training, rose to become a symbol of the opposition and headed the centrist Parti Keadilan Rakyat (People's Justice Party) and Pakatan Rakyat (People's Pact), an informal political coalition of Malaysia's opposition parties. She became the first-ever female leader of the opposition.

Her party won five seats in parliament in 1999 and she became

a member of parliament, taking over the seat formerly held by her husband. She successfully retained her position in 2004, stepping aside in the 2008 elections to make way for Anwar's return after his five-year ban from public office expired. He won the seat for Permatang Pauh with a landslide victory of 68% of the votes.

The charismatic politician is known to have a natural flair for speech-making and has been a unifying force for Malaysia's disparate opposition.

Anwar's return to politics helped propel the opposition to a landmark victory in five states, capturing a third of the parliamentary seats. In 2008, the ruling Barisan Nasional (National Front) suffered the worst electoral performance of its 50-year reign.

Politics evidently runs in the family. The couple's eldest daughter, "Nurul Izzah Anwar, defeated three-time incumbent Shahrizat Abdul Jalil at the 2008 election to become a parliamentarian.

The political stage is set for another showdown between Anwar's coalition and Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's administration, as the deadline for Malaysia's 13th general election looms closer.



**Benigno Aquino III, 52
Grace Lee, 29**

"Well, we're seeing each other, OK?" was the testy reply from the Philippine's bachelor president last week. It's not the first time Benigno Aquino III appeared ticked off at the intense media interest in his love life.

The 52-year-old bachelor declined