

# No 'fireworks' displayed

## Anwar and Rafizi end their party's congress amicably

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**SHAH ALAM:** Those expecting a showdown of sorts between PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his deputy Rafizi Ramli during their party national congress have been left disappointed.

During his winding-up speech, Rafizi, who is known for his sharp tongue, pledged his loyalty to Anwar and assured him that he would not betray him.

Addressing Anwar directly, Rafizi said he might be loud but he was "not Datuk Seri Azmin Ali".

"Mr President, I do not make sweet promises and then stab you in the back.

"I have never promised to break down the prison wall to free Anwar," said Rafizi.

He maintained that he was not the sort who would make a promise in front of a person and then negotiate for positions behind his back.

It is believed that Rafizi was referring to a speech by Azmin about a decade ago in which he said that he was prepared to break the prison walls to get Anwar if the party president was imprisoned.

Azmin, who was former party deputy president had led the defection of a substantial number of elected representatives from the party in 2020 which nearly crippled PKR and caused the downfall of the Pakatan Harapan government.

On Saturday, Rafizi told reporters that PKR members should not resort to "apple polishing" Anwar.

Prior to that, he had claimed that research carried out by his think-tank revealed that Anwar's popularity was waning.

Such blunt remarks had led to expectations of fireworks at the final day of PKR's national congress yesterday.

However, Rafizi said in his speech he wanted to be judged on his effort, hard work and service to the party even though he did not praise Anwar.

He also said that he would continue to be sharp-tongued and critical as he did not know



**Working as a team:** Anwar (front row, fourth from right) with Rafizi (front row, fifth from right) in a group photo with PKR committee members 2022-2025 after the party's 16th National Congress at IDCC Shah Alam. - KK SHAM/The Star

how to sweet talk.

Earlier, Rafizi said PKR had worked hard to deliver to the people what they required and deserved.

"The people know this and they are thankful to us for it.

"But we have to remember and respect that once we become the government, their expectations of us will become more complicated," he added.

He said the people wanted to see how the new government could resolve their problems, adding that this could not be done by delivering mere speeches and ideas.

The onus was on the new government to use its ability, skills and intellect to prove that it was better than its predecessor, he added.

It also appears that Rafizi is all set for his

task with the help of his loyalists who make up a majority of the elected members in the central leadership council.

Thirteen out of the 20 elected central leadership council members for the 2022-2025 term were from a list of 25 names tweeted by Rafizi earlier last week.

Among them are Johor Baru MP Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir, Bakar Arang assemblyman Ooi Tze Min, Simpang Pulau assemblyman Tan Kar Hing, Subang MP Wong Chen, Merbok MP Nor Azrina Surip, Semambu assemblyman Lee Chean Chung and celebrity Datuk Hans Issac.

Watch the video  
[TheStarTV.com](https://www.thestar.com)

