

## QUIT RUMOURS DENIED

# No issue with Rafizi taking a few days off, says Anwar

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday confirmed that Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli had gone on leave for “just a few days”, pouring cold water on claims that his No. 2 in PKR had quit.

“It’s just for a few days. Let him take leave, there’s no issue,” he said after Friday prayers at Masjid Bandar Saujana Putra here.

Anwar was asked to comment on reports that the economy minister had gone on leave amid speculation that he had resigned from the government, purported-

ly due to dissatisfaction over the PKR polls.

“I also want to take a few days off. I haven’t taken leave yet... maybe after the Asean Summit,” he said in jest.

Speculation about discord in PKR has been rife after several big names lost in the recent divisional polls, including those said to be linked to Rafizi.

Among them are Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad and Deputy Energy Transition and Water Transfor-

mation Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir. Other purported Rafizi allies who lost include Balik Pulau member of parliament Datuk Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik, Petaling Jaya MP Lee Chean Chung and Segamat MP R. Yuneswaran.

Some had complained of “irregularities”, where a nominee for division chief was defeated but everyone else in their “circle” was elected.

There were also cases where a leader secured a big win despite the majority of their team losing.

The divisional polls precede elections for PKR’s Central Leadership Council, the party’s highest decision-making body.

Nominations for the Central Leadership Council election were supposed to begin yesterday, but have now been postponed to May 8 and 9.

PKR election committee chairman Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa announced the delay yesterday, but gave no reason.

Last week, Dr Zaliha said the Central Leadership Council had been briefed on the methods for

reviewing the election following objections over the results.

Dr Zaliha has dismissed allegations of “hidden hands” in the division polls, saying auditors had been monitoring them.

Meanwhile, a PKR source said there had been “tensions” in the party over claims of polls irregularities, which led to rumours of Rafizi’s resignation.

The source said all this happened before Anwar announced the appointment of independent international auditors to look into the complaints.