

**PKR Youth delegates say party weak**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

JOHOR BARU, Nov 25 — Delegates at PKR Youth's national congress said today the party was lagging behind others due to a lack of discipline and weak leadership.

Penang representative Afif Baharudin got the ball rolling by questioning whether "our organisation is at the same level as our partners or opponents."

He was swiftly answered by Sungai Petani deputy youth chief Mohd Zaidi Osman blamed the youth leadership of "only thinking of their own interests" and there were "cowards and yes-men" who were the same as those in Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"If our leaders are weak, then we will be embarrassed," he said.

Although PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is accepted by Pakatan Rakyat (PR) as its prime minister candidate, it is still widely regarded as the weakest link in the tripartite coalition.

The youngest member of the PR pact has suffered several setbacks since becoming the largest opposition party in Parliament after the March 2008 election.

But six defections and the failure to defend Hulu Selangor in a by-election has seen its ranks shrink to 24 in the federal legislature.

Another Sungai Petani delegate Steven Koay said "I don't want to hear anymore analyses about how PKR is a liability and burden to Pakatan Rakyat."

He said it was no surprise the youth wing was weak "when even the leadership are late for the congress," claiming some of the executive committee were strolling into the assembly hall 45 minutes late the congress had resumed after lunch.

"If that is our attitude, how can we govern the country?" Koay added.

Mohd Zaidi also said that PKR youth members were "treated like children not just by Umno-BN but by our own leadership" because the age limit for the wing was reduced to 35 from 40 after the last national congress.

"Look in your own divisions. Are there members under 35 who can face Umno-BN? We are still new, so we hope the leadership can set the age limit back at 40," he said before receiving a standing ovation from over 400 delegates who were in the hall.

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