

Zahrain: It shows Anwar is taking over Pas
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KUALA LUMPUR: The turmoil in the Kedah state administration is reflective of the authority opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is having over Pas.

Yesterday, independent member of parliament Datuk Seri Zahrain Hashim said the dispute between Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azizan Abdul Razak and state Pas commissioner Datuk Dr Phahrolrazi Zawawi was a sign that "Anwar is taking over Pas".

Zahrain, who is Bayan Baru member of parliament, said Anwar had two key strategies -- to weaken Umno and impose his influence over Pas.

"This can be seen in the split between his supporters (Anwarinas) and Pas' ulama leaders.

"At present, even Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's position is fragile. I would not be surprised if Anwar's supporters succeed in toppling him, too."

Zahrain claimed that many Pas leaders like Phahrolrazi "worshipped Anwar as he has helped them rise to prominence".

"This has blinded them to the threats he is posing to Pas.

"Anwar is a threat to Islam, and if Pas is established based on religion as its foundation, then the Anwar faction will challenge their ideals.

"They choose to collaborate with him because he is perceived as their best hope to conquer Putrajaya."

Zahrain also said Anwar's influence had spilled over to former Umno members close to him.

He described former Umno supreme council member Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir as "someone who has fallen victim to that influence".

"When Kadir was in Umno, he never spoke out against the party or its leaders, but now, he openly questions their policies."

He also questioned Kadir's accusation of Barisan Nasional leaders bribing the people through vote-buying.

"Why is he breaking his silence now? If he was aware of these activities when he was in the Umno supreme council, why didn't he get the anti-graft body to investigate?"

On a separate matter, Zahrain said the possibility of a "hung parliament" as suggested by Tun Daim Zainuddin was not favourable.

"The government needs the majority as the prime minister needs to be comfortable with the support he gets when implementing future reforms."

He praised Najib and said "what the prime minister is talking about will benefit all Malaysians in years to come".

On his own plans to contest in the next general election, Zahrain said he would not rush into making a decision.

"I might carry on as an independent or choose not to contest at all," he added.

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