

Kedah Umno tells Pas to speak up on NGO issue
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ALOR STAR: Kedah Umno has challenged Pas to state its stance on the alleged action by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in soliciting aid from a foreign-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) to topple the Federal Government.

Its liaison committee chairman, Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, questioned if the Islamist party dared to oppose the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) de facto leader's action and withdraw from Pakatan Rakyat, or back the move and support the Jewish-linked NGO.

"I wonder where Pas stands on this issue. Is the party willing to set aside its fight for Islam for the sake of politics?"

He said this yesterday in backing a challenge by Selangor Umno to Anwar to deny claims that he had sought aid from overseas NGOs to win the next general election.

Selangor Umno liaison committee secretary Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed claimed on Tuesday that Anwar had obtained a manual of unethical tactics, written by a branch of the United States-based National Endowment for Democracy (NED), to win the election. NED is a non-profit foundation dedicated to the growth of democratic institutions worldwide.

Zin also alleged that a think tank foundation, Konrad-Adenauer Foundation (KAF), which is linked to Germany's ruling party, had sponsored PKR leaders to attend political courses in Germany.

KAF, a body that helps non-conservative Jewish groups, is believed to have been funded by NED.

Ahmad Bashah also challenged Anwar to sue Selangor Umno if he felt the allegation was baseless.

"We know that Anwar is an 'expert' in filing suits, so if the claim is not true, I dare him to take legal action against Selangor Umno to clear his name.

"But, so far, he has been surprisingly quiet, particularly on issues relating to his ambition to become prime minister."

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