

**Anwar 'running away' from defeat in Permatang Pauh, says Dr M  
Malaysian Insider  
March 22, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 22 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad chided today opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's plan to possibly contest away from his Permatang Pauh seat in Penang, saying his archrival is "running away" from possible defeat.

The former prime minister said the PKR de facto leader's decision to contest a different seat stemmed from his "doubts" that he could defend Permatang Pauh, a known Anwar stronghold since he first took up the seat in the 1982 national polls.

"This is a free country, he is free to go and contest anywhere... If he wants to, run away from Permatang Pauh.

"Yes, he is running away. Maybe he's not confident of winning the seat," a news portal quoted Dr Mahathir as saying.

Two days ago, Anwar said he may not defend his Permatang Pauh federal seat and instead may stand in Perak or Selangor in the coming general elections.

"There is a likelihood, but it means... I haven't made a definite decision because there have been suggestions that I should go down to Perak or Selangor, and I'm weighing the possibility of going down to Perak," the PKR advisor said.

Anwar did not say, however, who would replace him in Permatang Pauh, which has traditionally been his political stronghold.

The former deputy prime minister served as MP for Permatang Pauh from 1982 to 1999, until he was imprisoned when convicted for sodomy and corruption, which disqualified him from contesting elections until 2008 even though the conviction was reversed later.

He regained the seat in a 2008 by-election, which had been held by his wife and PKR president Datuk Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail in the interim.

Talk is rife that his daughter, Nurul Izzah Anwar, who is the current Lembah Pantai lawmaker, may take up the seat but Anwar has dismissed the speculation.

Anwar is among the few Pakatan Rakyat heavyweights eyeing the possibility of contesting in new constituencies as part of the federal opposition pact's push for more federal seats in Election 2013 which is expected to be called in a matter of weeks.

DAP stalwart Lim Kit Siang had recently announced that he would be gunning for the Gelang Patah seat in Johor.

The party will also contest Segamat, Kluang, Kulai, Tanjung Piai, Labis and Bakri in the Barisan Nasional (BN) political fortress state to help PR win federal power in the national polls.

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/anwar-running-away-from-defeat-in-permatang-pauh-says-dr-m/>