

Anwar ditching supporters by moving to Perak, says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak accused Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today of abandoning his supporters by contesting in Perak instead of defending the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat in Election 2013.

The opposition leader said yesterday that he would contest in Perak to boost support for Pakatan Rakyat (PR), adding that he would explain his move to his constituents in Permatang Pauh, Penang.

"I'll never dream of leaving Pekan," Najib told reporters after the Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council meetings at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

"Politically speaking, I'll live and die in Pekan. If he can leave Permatang Pauh, what is there to speak of his principles and loyalty?" added the Pekan MP.

The loose opposition pact of PKR, PAS and DAP won Perak in Election 2008, but lost the silver state to BN in 2009 after one assemblyman defected to BN, while three other PR assemblymen declared themselves independent and pledged their allegiance to BN.

Najib said today that Anwar's move to Perak possibly showed that the PKR de facto leader was not feeling "secure".

"He's abandoning the people who's been supporting him all this while," he said.

Asked about BN component parties swapping seats, the BN chairman said: "Wait for it. It's important to have the element of surprise."

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said separately today that BN would win Perak in the 13th general election, pointing out that the ruling coalition was not afraid of Anwar.

Umno veteran Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz similarly said that she was confident BN would bag the state.

Perak DAP, however, reminded voters earlier today of the power grab that toppled PR from the state in 2009, as it moved to reignite the anti-BN sentiment that rocked the northern state for over a year after the controversial putsch.

Perak DAP chief Datuk Ngeh Koo Ham said the next general election would be the crucial opportunity for voters to tell Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir that his allegedly "undemocratic" power grab in 2009 was unacceptable.

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