

**Former TM Vice-President Confident In Taking On Anwar
Bernama
16 April, 2013**

GEORGE TOWN, April 16 (Bernama) -- Former Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM) vice-president Dr Mazlan Ismail, the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate to take on PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat, said he was not the least intimidated by the latter's big name in politics.

He said his confidence in facing Anwar came from his experience as the former Penang PAS Youth deputy chief and he would be exposing the flaws in the opposition pact led by Anwar.

"I was also the state PAS general election director in 1999 and 2004. I believe all this experience has prepared me for my political struggle in Permatang Pauh.

"InsyaAllah (God willing), I will achieve victory and ready to serve the people as a full-time politician," he told reporters Tuesday.

Mazlan, 53, said with solid support from the BN election machinery and meticulously-planned strategy since three months ago, he could be a threat to Anwar in the latter's attempt to retain the seat.

He said as a local-born, he had no problems in meeting the people including the voters of Permatang Pauh, as he had done so in past elections when he was with PAS.

Mazlan has a degree in electronics and communications from the University of Salford, United Kingdom and a PhD in intellectual capital management from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

"Although this is the first time I will be contesting in the elections, the support of the grassroots has motivated me not to fear Anwar's popularity," he said.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=942505>