

Anwar Braces For Tough Fight To Retain Permatang Pauh
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BUKIT MERTA JAM, April 20 (Bernama) -- Incumbent Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim braces for a tough fight to retain the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat for he is facing a three-cornered fight, said Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Dr Mazlan Ismail.

Mazlan, who was former Telekom Malaysia Bhd vice-president, said the three-cornered fight could give an advantage to the BN to wrest the seat from Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR).

"PKR wants to win the seat to save its honour for it will be unbearable for the PKR adviser to lose it. Definitely, it is going to be a tough fight as the voters are more matured now.

"My team and I will work hard to convince the people that we are here to serve them and bring a new hope to them," he told reporters after filing his nomination papers at the National Youth Training Institute, Berapit here Saturday.

Mazlan, 50, who was former Penang PAS Youth vice-chief, is facing Anwar and Independent Dr Abdullah Zawawi Samsudin in the polls.

Meanwhile, Anwar told reporters that the three-corner did not bother him for he was confident of retaining the PKR's stronghold.

"I will leave it to my colleagues here along with other candidates to activate the election machinery for I also have to focus on other areas, including Sabah and Sarawak as I told them last night," he said.

PKR president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail won the seat in the 2008 general election with a 13,398-vote majority before its was vacated to make way for her husband, Anwar to compete in a by-election.

Anwar defeated BN's Datuk Arif Shah Omar Shah and Angkatan Keadilan Insan Malaysia's Hanafi Mamat with a 15,671-vote majority on Aug 26, 2008.

BN and PKR supporters thronged the nomination centre as early as 7 am and the nomination process went smoothly under tight police control.

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