

PKR Wanita against Parliament swearing-in boycott
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PETALING JAYA, June 12 — PKR's Wanita wing disagrees with suggestions that the party boycott the swearing-in of its elected federal representatives, and said it will convey this at the party's political bureau meeting today.

The wing's chief, Zuraida Kamaruddin, today echoed the views of Pakatan Rakyat (PR) colleagues who said boycotting the ceremony would prevent the opposition from representing their voters effectively.

"My opinion is that we should attend the swearing-in; if not, we cannot attend the sitting. Only when we attend the sitting can we work better," the Ampang lawmaker told a press conference in PKR's headquarters here.

Some PKR leaders recently suggested that the opposition snub the swearing-in process in protest against alleged fraud in Election 2013.

Following this, media outlets reported that the opposition pact had decided to proceed with its plan to shun the sitting, although PKR vice-president Chua Tian Chang later clarified that no official decision has yet been made.

The suggestion was met with a threat by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia who warned that PR elected representatives would be dropped as MPs if they choose to boycott the swearing-in process.

Pandikar said should the opposition bloc refuse to participate in the procedure, he and his deputies will ignore their appeal to be sworn in later, which would lead to their eventual discharge as MPs.

In an immediate response, PKR vice-president N Surendran called the threat unlawful and a reflection of the Speaker's apparent bias against the opposition.

He added that Pandikar has no legal ground to issue the threat, claiming that the Parliament Standing Orders clearly compel the Secretary of the Dewan Rakyat to administer the oath to any MP who has yet to do so.

PKR's allies DAP and PAS have openly voiced their objection to the boycott idea and said that there was never any consensus to shun the swearing-in process.

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