

**By-Election: Choice Of Nomination Date Not To Prevent Anwar From Speaking In Parliament**  
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PUTRAJAYA, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- Setting March 11 for nomination of candidates for the Kajang by-election, which is a day after the opening of the Parliament 2014 session, was not aimed at preventing PKR candidate Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from speaking in parliament.

Election Commission (EC) chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof explained that March 23, a weekend public holiday, had been chosen by the commission for polling, and March 11 set as nomination day based on the election law.

"The law says that the nomination of candidates must take place not less than 11 days before polling day, hence the nomination of candidates on March 11.

"It is therefore not right for anyone to say that March 11 was deliberately chosen as nomination day to prevent Anwar from speaking in parliament on that day which is the opposition leader's turn to speak, following the opening of the parliament session the day before (March 10)."

Abdul Aziz said this in response to Anwar's claim at his ceramah in Taman Perdana Cuepacs, Kajang recently that the choice of the date (March 11) was to prevent him from speaking in parliament. Anwar has been announced as the PKR candidate for the Kajang state seat by-election following the controversial resignation of the incumbent assemblyman Lee Chin Cheh on Jan 27.

Abdul Aziz said Anwar could choose to attend the parliament session on March 11 and not be present during the nomination of candidates for the by-election.

"All he needs to do is to send his candidacy proposer or supporter to the nomination centre to hand over his nomination forms and bring along the document allowing the use of the party's logo in the by-election.

"Ensure the nomination forms are properly filled and the deposit paid.

"But, if he (Anwar) wants to be present during the nomination process, he only needs to make a request to speak in parliament in the afternoon as the distance between Kajang and Kuala Lumpur is not far," he said.

Abdul Aziz said he regretted Anwar's claim that Barisan Nasional was "buying time" from the EC to delay things when in fact, the EC needed time to prepare for the Kajang by-election.

"It's difficult to tell Anwar anything because he'll accuse me of being an Umno agent, while I'm not an Umno member nor am I active in politics. What I do is just based on the law.

"We need time as we have to prepare carefully for the by-election, including buying indelible ink and testing it before our officers can bring it back.

"All this can be avoided if the by-election is not orchestrated," he said.

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