

Mat Taib ready to assist Anwar in running Selangor

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BY AMIN ISKANDAR, NEWS EDITOR

Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib (pic) said he was ready to render his services to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the rural development of Selangor, post the Kajang by-election.

In welcoming Anwar's plans to rope him in the Selangor government, Muhammad, who is also known as Mat Taib, said the important thing is for Selangor to continue being the "super-model" state of Malaysia.

"I am ready to assist him, whenever my service is needed," he told The Malaysian Insider today.

"If we want to start a plan, it has to be started in Selangor. We have everything here, from intellectuals to sources," he said, referring to Pakatan Rakyat (PR)'s plans to turn Selangor into a governing model before taking over Putrajaya.

On the speculation that Anwar would replace Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as the menteri besar, Muhammad did not discount the possibility, saying there are no laws stating that only Selangor-born Malaysians are allowed to hold the title.

"Nothing is impossible in politics," he added.

Anwar last announced that he would rope in the former Umno leader to the Selangor government after the Kajang by-election.

Aside from Khalid's skills in economic management, the Selangor government would need Muhammad's skills in rural programmes, the opposition leader told about 200 PKR supporters in Cheras.

"He has skills in rural programmes," he said.

His announcement was seen as confirming speculation that he would replace Khalid as MB if he wins the Kajang by-election.

The former menteri besar, who was in office from 1986 to 1997, campaigned for PR prior to GE13 and is widely credited with PAS's success in GE13.

He resigned as menteri besar in 1997 after an Australian court charged him with falsely declaring cash amounting to RM2.4 million during his entry into the country.

He was acquitted a year later.

Muhammad's highest post in Umno was as vice-president (2000-2003) and Umno information chief (2008-2009).

The Kajang by-election, the nation's third since GE13, was triggered with the resignation of PKR's Lee Chin Cheh.

Anwar will be contesting for PR in the by election which has been set on March 23 and nominations on March 11. – February 13, 2014.

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