

**Khalid Ibrahim denies influencing Zaid Ibrahim to contest in Kajang
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Selangor's menteri besar, Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim (pic) has denied allegations that he influenced former minister, Datuk Zaid Ibrahim to contest in Kajang's by-election to secure his position as menteri besar.

It has been speculated that Khalid Ibrahim had influenced Zaid, a former PKR member, to stop PKR's Kajang candidate, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from replacing him as menteri besar.

"No," he said to reporters today regarding the matter.

Zaid has announced that he will be contesting in Kajang as state assemblyman to stop Anwar's 'Kajang Move' and retain Khalid Ibrahim as the menteri besar.

However, Khalid said that Zaid is free to make any statement as it is a democratic country, which gives freedom to an individual to have any opinion.

"People are free to voice their opinions and be involved in politics," he said

In his announcement, Zaid said that by defeating Anwar in the Kajang by-election, Pakatan Rakyat (PR)'s future will be secured.

"If I win, Anwar loses. Therefore, Selangor PR will be peaceful again, Khalid will continue as menteri besar," he said.

Zaid added that Anwar's move to contest in Kajang's by-election is dirty politics and should not be approved.

"If Anwar wins in Kajang and Khalid refuses to step down as menteri besar voluntarily, there will be a political crisis in Selangor.

"Also, if Anwar wins in Kajang, it is uncertain that he will be approved as menteri besar by Selangor's Sultan." he said, adding that PR's component component, PAS may not have agreed to have Anwar as menteri besar.

"All these problems can be solved if I win the Kajang state assembly," he said

The Election Commission has set March 23 as the polling date for the Kajang by-election, the country's third since the general election last May, while nomination is on March 11.

PKR's Lee Chin Cheh won the Kajang state seat in Election 2013 with a 6,824-vote majority, defeating Barisan Nasional's Lee Ban Seng, Berjasa's Mohamad Ismail and three other candidates.

Yesterday, former minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Zaid Ibrahim, announced his intention to join the race, joining two others with former PKR links, Datuk S. Nallakarupan and Yuktes Vijay.

BN has yet to indicate its choice of candidate, but MCA vice-president Datuk Paduka Chew Mei Fun is widely tipped to be the party's choice. - February 17, 2014.

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