

**Anwar dismisses Zaid's challenge, says the real fight is with BN  
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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has dismissed the challenge from his former party mate Datuk Zaid Ibrahim and other independent candidates in the contest for Kajang, saying the real fight is with Barisan Nasional (BN).

The opposition leader, who is PKR's candidate for the urban mix seat, said he is not underestimating anyone but unlike the independent candidates, the BN candidate would have the ruling coalition's mighty machinery, funds and media backing.

"I think the battle will be with the BN candidate. The issue is what BN has to say.

"I am not underestimating anyone but with their machinery, funds and media hype, we have to be realistic and acknowledge that once the BN candidate is announced, they will go on a massive campaign," he said at a press conference at the PKR headquarters today.

Zaid had announced last weekend that he would be contesting in Kajang to stop Anwar's "Kajang Move" and retain Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim as the menteri besar.

He had described the resignation of PKR's Lee Chin Cheh to make way for Anwar as "wholly inappropriate", and warned of a political crisis in Selangor if Khalid refused to step down.

In an interview with news portal The Malay Mail Online, lawyer Zaid had also said he was a more credible candidate than Anwar, whom he described as a charmer who can never lead the country or even a state.

He had said that the former deputy prime minister had only become "a liberal" after he was sacked by then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Anwar today refused to be drawn into the matter, saying that he would leave it to the Kajang voters to decide.

But he could not resist taking a swipe at Zaid, hinting that the former de facto law minister was flip flopping during the Abdullah administration.

"Two weeks ago, he said he supported me to be the Menteri Besar, now he said he is not supportive of me being the assemblyman. How then can I be the MB without being the assemblyman?" Anwar asked.

In 2009, following his sacking from Umno, Zaid had joined PKR and stood under the party's banner for the Hulu Selangor by-election in 2010, which he lost to MIC information chief P. Kamalanathan.

He left the Pakatan Rakyat lynchpin party later that year after accusing the party leadership of condoning electoral fraud in its internal polls.

He went on to lead the little-known Kesejahteraan Insan Tanah Air (Kita) but quit as its president in 2012.

The Kajang by-election was triggered by the resignation of Lee Chin Cheh.

In the May general election, Lee won with a 6,824-vote majority, garnering 19,571 votes, followed by Lee Ban Seng of BN with 12,747 votes, and Mohamad Ismail of Berjasa who obtained 1,014 votes. – February 18, 2014.

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