

**Is Anwar joining forces with Najib, asks ex-NST editor  
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Is PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (pic) forging an alliance with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak?

This is the poser raised by veteran journalist Datuk A. Kadir Jasin in his latest blog posting.

Kadir said it was a win-win deal for both Najib and Anwar, as both parties would benefit immensely from an alliance.

"The criticisms by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin against Najib can be negated by a merger with Anwar," Kadir said.

"Najib and his inner circle can count on Anwar to do battle with Dr Mahathir and Daim."

Therefore, with one brilliant manoeuvre, Najib would strengthen his position, destroy the Pakatan Rakyat coalition and get rid of his fiercest critics.

"Anwar gets to enjoy the privileges and protection as a member of the government," Kadir said.

Kadir, the former New Straits Times group editor-in-chief, wondered if all the reports about Anwar's candidacy in the Kajang by-election were just a smokescreen.

"What if the reports circulating about Anwar becoming the next Selangor menteri besar were just a ploy?

"What if it was intended to conceal the backroom manoeuvring involving his camp and Najib's inner sanctum?"

Kadir asked what if one of Anwar's influential aides had already made contact with an equally influential counterpart in Najib's inner sanctum of trusted advisers.

"The outcome of the talks was to work out a deal whereby Anwar would join the cabinet and be given a portfolio which would enhance his powers.

"The portfolio which has been earmarked for Anwar is so powerful that it sends shivers down the spine of Najib's detractors," Kadir said.

Kadir said Anwar was not foolish as he could evaluate the possibility of his own people jumping ship, especially if the problems in Selangor continued to fester.

"It is a mistake to underestimate Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim's resourcefulness and knowledge.

"Khalid knows more about merger and acquisition than Anwar and deputy PKR president Azmin Ali. He can also apply the same knowledge to politics.

"If Khalid feels that he is on the losing end, he has the ability to swing Selangor away from Pakatan Rakyat," Kadir said.

Therefore, Kadir said, entering into a deal with Najib would be a good strategy for Anwar if he harboured such an intention.

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