

**Rafizi made a stupid statement, says PAS
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PKR strategy chief Rafizi Ramli has drawn flak from PAS for revealing that the Islamist party wanted Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to be made prime minister if Pakatan Rakyat won the 13th general election.

"If he considers himself PKR's strategy director, he has made a stupid statement," PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali (pic) told The Malaysian Insider.

Rafizi said yesterday during a forum on the Selangor menteri besar crisis that Razaleigh was the PAS top leaders' choice for prime minister last year should they win the election.

He said a delegation of PAS leaders comprising president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, Mustafa, deputy president Mohamad Sabu and vice-president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man had informed Anwar of their decision a month before the polls.

"I don't want to say much about Rafizi's statement, let's leave it at that."

Meanwhile, PAS Research Centre operations director Dr Mohd Zuhdi Marzuki said in a statement that they nominated Tengku Razaleigh as the candidate for prime minister to undermine the strong rural Malay support that Umno held.

"Anwar did not agree to the proposal, so we closed the book without making any public announcements," he said on his Facebook page.

He said PAS's method of referring to its partner before making any political move was more moral than "making an announcement as if one party alone has veto power, and then forcing the other partners to accept it using various means to influence the PR presidential council".

PR won the popular vote in last year's 13th general election, but failed to take over

Putrajaya as Barisan Nasional, through Umno, won the majority of the rural parliamentary seats and drew the support of Malay voters.

Rafizi said yesterday that after they lost the general election, the coalition had never revisited the topic of the prime minister candidate. But, it was understood that PAS still did not endorse Anwar as prime minister.

He said he hoped the issue of who would be prime minister should Pakatan win the next general election would be resolved quickly.

"We have to settle the issue now, not four years down the line. That's why I think you can see that PAS is extremely stubborn at this point. But I don't think we can go into the next election by sweeping this problem under the carpet.

"Let's settle this once and for all, with the public. If PAS thinks that this disagreement warrants anything drastic on their part, so be it." – August 6, 2014.

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