

No political motive in Nurul Nuha leading 'free Anwar' campaign, says Wan Azizah
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By Looi Sue-Chern

Amid speculation that Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's second daughter Nurul Nuha Anwar may be picked as PKR's candidate to contest the Permatang Pauh by-election, her mother Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said their daughter was merely heading the campaign to free her father.

Dr Wan Azizah, who is PKR president, said when the family launched the campaign to free Anwar three days ago, they wanted someone who was not politically connected or politically motivated to head it.

"So Nurul Nuha is the head of the campaign, which is organised on a humanitarian basis. It is not a political movement, but one done by a non-governmental organisation.

"Speculations always happen... You can always speculate," she told reporters after a Permatang Pauh division meeting at Yayasan Aman in Penanti this evening.

Since Nurul Nuha was chosen to lead the campaign, which was launched three days ago, it has been hotly speculated that she would be picked as PKR's candidate for the by-election once Anwar's Permatang Pauh seat is declared vacant.

Dr Wan Azizah also said the party has not discussed the by-election.

"Anwar is still the MP until the Election Commission disqualifies him. Then, we will have the by-election.

"We are confident that we will continue our struggle. Permatang Pauh is the foundation of our struggle," she said.

On whether Anwar would seek a royal pardon to get out of jail, she said his lawyers were still studying the option.

She maintained that her husband was innocent and seeking a royal pardon would have connotations that he was guilty.

On Tuesday, Anwar's appeal against his sodomy conviction and five-year jail sentence was dismissed by the Federal Court.

Dr Wan Azizah, who visited her husband at the Sungai Buloh prison yesterday, said Anwar had lost weight after just four days in jail but his spirit remained high.

"He was in great spirit, remarkably. I felt very encouraged... he was thin but when he

spoke, he showed he still has his strength and spirit.

"Alhamdulillah. That gives us, our friends and supporters strength too when we know he is okay. It is not easy at his age, or at any age," she said.

Dr Wan Azizah also said Anwar was deeply saddened when told of the death of PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

"Nik Aziz helped him and advised him a lot over the years. Anwar said losing Nik Aziz was like losing a shining star in the night sky," she said.

Dr Wan Azizah is due to speak at a tribute ceramah for Anwar tonight at the Seberang Jaya expo site with other Pakatan Rakyat leaders. – February 14, 2015.

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