

PAS lawmaker, ex-Selangor MB cross over to PKR
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By Jennifer Gomez

Former PAS secretary-general Datuk Kamarudin Jaafar and former Selangor MB Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib have joined PKR, party president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail announced today.

Kamarudin, the Tumpat MP, will hold the position of political and policy director advising the office of the PKR president and deputy president.

Speaking to reporters at the PKR headquarters today, Kamarudin thanked PAS for the opportunity to serve the Islamist party since 1999.

He said he had also been actively involved in forming the Pakatan Rakyat (PR) alliance among the opposition parties and remained committed to the pact.

"After 2008, I was actively involved in setting up Pakatan Rakyat.

"We need to strengthen the parties in Pakatan, and I give my commitment to support Amanah as well," he said, referring to the new party Parti Amanah Negara, to be launched on September 16.

"I will also remain committed to PR and play an active role to bring political change to the country."

Muhammad, meanwhile, said Malaysia was facing a serious crisis and the current leadership of the country could not handle it.

As such, he was joining PKR to bring "reforms" to the people.

"The people have clearly voiced through the 52% popular vote in GE13, they want change and reform.

"This country needs an alternative government, and PKR is a good party for reforms," he added.

Asked why he chose PKR and not Amanah, the former MB said the new party was also in his heart.

"Amanah is with me also. It's like this, if the sun is in my right hand, then the moon is on my left," he said to laughter from the crowd.

Kamaruddin, who switched to PAS from Umno in 1999, served as the PAS secretary-general from 2004 to 2008.

Widely seen an ally of jailed opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during his

time in Umno, he is a four-term Tumpat MP, having first won the seat in the 1999 general election.

Muhammad, who joined PAS on the eve of the 2013 general election, was the Selangor MB from 1986 to 1997 but quit the post after he was charged in Australia, and freed, over currency irregularities amounting to RM3.8 million.

He staged a comeback in 2008 after he was made a senator and appointed as the rural and regional development minister. – September 11, 2015.

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