

Wan Azizah: Mahathir not disagreeable on Anwar as PM

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By Ho Kit Yen

PKR president says Pakatan Harapan is not discussing the issue now as it wants to focus on winning the next general election.

PETALING JAYA: Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail today claimed PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad has not disagreed on PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim being named as Pakatan Harapan's (PH) choice for prime minister should the opposition win the next general election.

"He did not say he disagreed on Anwar being named the PM candidate," the PKR president and parliamentary opposition leader said.

"He said there is no need to announce the name. It does not mean he is in disagreement," she told a press conference at the PKR headquarters here.

The question of whether former prime minister Mahathir was favourable towards Anwar intensified when party delegates at the PKR national congress on May 21 held up placards supporting him for prime minister should the opposition win in the 14th general election (GE14), due by the middle of next year.

Mahathir, who was seated with other PH leaders on stage, did not hold up the card that read "Anwar the 7th PM", but was instead seen recording the scene on his mobile phone.

PPBM's president Muhyiddin Yassin and deputy president Mukhriz Mahathir did not carry the placards either. However, other PH leaders, including DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang, Amanah president Mohamad Sabu, and PKR deputy president Mohamed Azmin Ali, did.

Anwar has been serving a five-year jail sentence at Sungai Buloh prison for committing sodomy since February 2015.

Asked who would be the interim prime minister while waiting for Anwar to complete his jail term, Azizah said: "Whoever enjoys the majority support from MPs gets to be the interim PM."

She did not answer questions on when PH would meet to discuss the matter.

"We are not discussing it at the moment because we should focus more on how to win the election," she said.

At the PKR Youth congress on May 20, its chief Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said that the wing wanted Wan Azizah to be PH's choice for prime minister "in transition" in the event of a victory in GE14, until Anwar was released from prison and could take over.

Earlier today, Wan Azizah arrived at the party's headquarters to give moral support to her daughter Nurul Ilham Anwar, who was questioned by the police over her participation in a vigil in Klang two years ago.

Ilham told reporters that she chose to remain silent during the 10 minutes of questioning, saying she would only answer the questions when charged in court.

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