

## **Zaid bemoans lack of civility on issue of PM-designate**

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**By Ho Kit Yen**

### **Former minister says having differences in political ideology and opinion should not justify being harsh and disrespectful, especially to older people.**

PETALING JAYA: Former minister Zaid Ibrahim says political differences should not negate the need for civil conduct, being polite and exhibiting reasonable behaviour.

In a blogpost today, he said, "Having differences in political ideology and opinion should not justify being harsh and disrespectful, especially to older people."

He was referring to the recent skirmishes within Pakatan Harapan (PH), particularly over the issue of their choice of prime minister should the opposition succeed in wresting Putrajaya from Barisan Nasional (BN) in the coming general election (GE14).

He said it was "uncalled for" when a young PKR leader, believed to be Rafizi Ramli of PKR accused him of having a "chequered political history" and creating "friendly fire" within the opposition.

"It's similar to Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz retorting that I am a 'failed politician'. I don't expect civility from Nazri, but I certainly do expect it from the future prime ministers of this country," Zaid said.

While Zaid has suggested PPBM chairman Dr Mahathir Mohamad as prime minister, PKR has been lobbying for former opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and their party president Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail as interim prime minister until Anwar is released from prison and able to take over.

Zaid however said the move lacked finesse.

He also criticised PKR for picking a PM-designate when the opposition had not even won the election yet and accused them of "showing traces of the same political culture that BN has".

"When the future prime minister says things like, 'We can get Anwar to be PM two weeks after winning GE14', he shows no respect for the laws and processes involved in securing a pardon for a convict," Zaid said, asking what would happen should members of the Pardons Board refuse to act on the wishes of the new government in place.

"Will the new government then apply pressure or even sack those who will not pardon Anwar in two weeks? It will be the pot calling the kettle black all over again."

Yet none of the opposition leaders have dared correct this assertion, Zaid lamented.

“None dared to say that we cannot exhibit high-handedness and must instead always exercise restraint when wielding power. Is this not what the opposition stands for?”

“By accepting the three PAS executive councillors in the Selangor state government ‘for the sake of stability’, the opposition is also mirroring what Datuk Seri Najib Razak does at the national level. Najib too is co-opting PAS ‘for stability’ — can anyone tell me the difference?”

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