Wan Azizah continues Anwar’s hindered agenda in Kajang

KUALA LUMPUR: The selection of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) president Datin Seri Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (pictured) as the party’s candidate for the by-election for the Kajang State Legislative Assembly seat is seen by political analysts as an effort to continue the political agenda of her husband that was hindered.

This is because it was reported that her husband, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also PKR advisor, could not contest in the by-election which would have paved the way for him to become the Selangor Menteri Besar.

Last Friday, the Court of Appeal sentenced Anwar to five years in jail after rejecting the decision of the High Court to free Anwar from the charge of sodomising his aide six years ago. The Dean of the Department of Nationhood and Civilisation Studies, Faculty of Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Tarmizi Talib perceived Wan Azizah’s selection as Anwar’s strategy to continue his hindered agenda.

The same view was also expressed by a political analyst, who is also a lecturer at the university, Dr Amini Amir Abdullah who hinted the possibility that Wan Azizah was merely a puppet for her husband.

“Will Wan Azizah also be made the Selangor Menteri Besar later?” he asked, adding that if this was the scenario, Selangor might have a puppet for a menteri besar.

The Dean of the College of Law, Government and International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Marthada Mohamed described Wan Azizah’s selection more as an Anwar family affair because Wan Azizah would still be selected although there were many others who could be featured.

“It is also perceived as an effort at continuing the dynasty of the Anwar family in the party.”

The Deputy Dean of the Social Science Study Centre, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Dr P. Sivamurugan was of the opinion that Wan Azizah’s selection could be Anwar’s strategy to gain sympathy votes following the decision of the court.

The face-off between Wan Azizah and the Barisan Nasional candidate, Chew Mei Fun draws much attention as about 50 per cent of the approximately 39,000 voters in the Kajang state constituency are women.

MCA deputy president Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong said that the BN, basically would not change its election strategy following the selection of Wan Azizah as a candidate in the by-election.

“Whether it is Anwar or Wan Azizah, our strategy does not change,” he said.

Chew, meanwhile, reiterated her stand that she was prepared to face anyone in Kajang and would continue to strive so that BN could re-capture the seat from PKR.

Nomination day for the by-election is March 11 while polling day is March 23. — Bernama