

# PPP LIKELY TO LOSE ITS PERAK SEATS

By HUEN PENG KONG

IPOH, Tues. - The People's Progressive Party is likely to end up losing to other component parties in the Barisan Nasional in the negotiations for seats in Perak in the coming general elections.

Observers feel the main reason was the debacle which the party suffered in the 1978 general elections.

The PPP won only one State seat (Chemor) out of four (Pantai Remis, Chemor, Gopeng and Guntong)

which it contested in 1978. It also lost the only parliamentary seat which it contested in Bruas although its candidate, Mr Su Lian Yu had represented the area for two consecutive terms.

Observers feel the recent power struggle between rival factions had further eroded the party's support although the squabbles had been officially settled.

Sources said differences still exist among the party leaders though they have been swept under the car-

pet for the present.

The differences were said to have arisen out of the issue of who should stand for elections and in which constituency.

Another thorny problem yet to be sorted out is the appointment of a senator in place of party president Senator S.I. Rajah when his term expires this year.

It is rumoured that party vice-president Paramjit Singh, a lawyer, is interested in this appointment.

The fight for the PPP's traditional parliamentary seat of Bruas is most interesting to watch. Three parties - the MCA, Gerakan and PPP - are eyeing the seat.

The Gerakan's candidate is likely to be its national president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik while the MCA, if given the chance to contest, is likely to field Mr Ng Cheng Kuai, the political secretary to Minister of Labour and Manpower, Datuk Richard Ho.

The PPP is determined to bid for the seat. Sen. Rajah has said he would like to contest for it.

The Chemor State seat, which was the only seat the PPP won in the last elections, is likely to be lost to the Gerakan,



Senator Rajah . . . would like to contest for Bruas seat

Mr Yap Boon En who was elected on the PPP ticket in 1978 has since resigned from the party and joined Gerakan. He is not seeking re-election for age and health reasons.

Sources said the Gerakan's likely candidate is its Ipoh Municipal Councillor Mr Lim Ah Cheng.

The Pantai Remis State seat which the PPP contested in the last elections is likely to be given to the MCA. Mr Young Heow Choo who won the seat on a DAP ticket in 1978 has since crossed over to the MCA.

The other traditional PPP seats - Gopeng and Guntong - are also likely to be grabbed by the Umno and MIC respectively. Perak MIC chairman Senator K. Kumaran is likely to stand for the Guntong seat since the constituency has a sizeable number of Indians.

The MIC has been building up its base support in the area for sometime.

Sources said if Sen. Kumaran is elected, he is likely to become an Executive Councillor. There is presently no MIC representative in the Exco.

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