

21/11/1999

Straight contest in all but two constituencies

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Sharanjit Singh; Elizabeth John; K. Bala  
THERE will be straight fights in all Parliament and State seats in Kedah, except for Bukit Selambau and Lunas State seats.

In Bukit Selambau, there will be a three-cornered fight among Barisan Nasional incumbent Datuk V. Saravanan (MIC), Pas' Dr Hamdan Mohd Khalid and independent D. Kalaichelvan.

Bukit Selambau falls under the Merbok parliamentary seat, where Tun Daim Zainuddin is seeking re-election.

In Lunas, incumbent BN assemblyman Dr Joe Fernandez will face DAP's M. Kathirvelo and two independents, Ibrahim Rashdi and N. Letchumanan.

There are 15 parliamentary seats and 36 State seats which will be contested. BN will contest all 15 parliamentary seats and 36 State seats. Pas will field candidates in 10 parliamentary seats and 32 state seats while DAP will take one parliamentary and four State seats. Keadilan has fielded candidates in four parliamentary seats.

Five women candidates - all from BN - are also contesting. Except for Barishah Saad who is defending the Tunjang seat the others, MCA's Lim Bee Kau (Padang Serai-parliament), Rosnah Majid, Siti Meriam Salleh and Marlia Latiff are vying for the Belantek, Merbau Pulas and Merbok State seats respectively.

State Gerakan chairman Fong Chok Gin and Youth leader Cheung Khai Yan are defending the Sidam and Derga seats respectively.

The MCA, which is contesting the same two parliamentary seats and four State seats, has dropped its State Wanita chief Lim Lay Hoon in favour of Lim Bee Kau.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is defending his Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat, will be challenged by Pas central working committee member Ahmad Subky Abd Latif in a straight fight.

While Dr Mahathir expressed surprise that Subky and not the much-talked-about figure Dr Harun Din is taking him on, Subky, an outsider from Perak who has never won despite contesting in the last six general elections, is confident he will not only win but also garner at least 30,000 votes. Subky also emphasised that his mission was to defeat Dr Mahathir.

Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor, 62, will challenge BN's Datuk Othman Abdul, 48, in the Pendang parliamentary seat.

This will be their second meeting, the first was in 1990 where Fadzil was defeated by Othman with a 3,200 majority.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid will face Pas candidate Che Din Arshad in the Kuah State seat in Langkawi.

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