

# PAS: We want Indera Kayangan

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KUALA LUMPUR: A clash between two opposition parties appears to be building up in an expected by-election in Indera Kayangan in Perlis as PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional have expressed the intention to contest the same seat.

The move, a repeat of what happened in the Sarawak elections recently for the Samariang seat, is expected to drive a further schism between the parties.

The ghost of Samariang, where Keadilan backstabbed PAS by contesting in the same seat, is now haunting Keadilan following a statement by Perlis PAS commissioner Hashim Jassin

"PAS is ready to contest in Indera Kavanaan should there be a by-election," he said, adding that PAS and Keadilan should discuss the issue.

PAS information chief Azizan Abdul Razak said the party leadership had the final say whether to contest the seat.

"We also have to consider the sentiments of our Perlis commissioner.

"Perhaps, he has valid reasons why PAS should contest the seat. We have to consider his views," he added.

This is seen as a tit for tat for what Keadilan did to PAS while they were contesting under the Opposition Front banner in the Sarawak elections.

In Samariang, it was PAS which sounded its intention to contest the seat earlier but Keadilan sent its state secretary Wan Zainal Wan Sanusi into the fray.

The split in opposition votes caused an embarrassing result to PAS candidate Shokri Mohamad Fauzi, the Sarawak commissioner, who lost his deposit after garnering only about 300 votes.

The Keadilan candidate obtained more than 1,000 votes against Barisan Nasional's Shari-fah Mordiah who won by a majority of 3,927.

Earlier, PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said Indera Kayangan was most likely to be contested by Keadilan as it had done its work during the 1999 election.

In the elections, Barisan's Datuk Khor Liang Tee won the Indera Kayangan seat after polling 3,825 votes against 1,851 garnered by Keadilan's Ko Choo Liang.

Khor, who is in critical condition after fighting colon cancer for two years, is the Perlis MCA chairman and a state executive councillor.

Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said Keadilan's move to place a Malay candidate would not work as the non-bumiputras are solidly behind Barisan.

He added that Barisan was confident of victory.

"We hope to attain an even higher majority if a contest should take place here," Shahidan told reporters after chairing the weekly executive council meeting yesterday.