

Pas candidate likely to contest in Kubang Pasu

Nst 1- JUL 2003

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.— A Pas candidate is likely to contest the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat in Kedah in the next general election.

The party and its ally Parti Keadilan Nasional were interested in the constituency currently held by Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad but a series of talks between State leaders negotiating for seats to contest agreed in principle that Pas should field its candidate in Kubang Pasu.

Pas fielded its central committee member Subky Abdul Latif to challenge Dr Mahathir in the 1999 general election.

“Our focus is to field a credible candidate and we have realised through our discussions that a candidate from Pas will stand a better chance,” said a Kedah Keadilan leader.

However, a State Pas leader said the party was not ruling out a change in decision on the candidacy as a lot depended on the political scenario at the time when the general election was called.

“Yes, there is a loose agreement made on the candidacy in Kubang Pasu with Keadilan but we are not ruling out a change as the objective is to win,” he said, adding that discussions between the two parties on the allocation of seats would continue until the eleventh hour.

The negotiators from both parties had also agreed in principle that Keadilan should contest in Alor Star, Sungai Petani, Merbok, Padang Serai and Kulim/Bandar Baru constituencies.

Keadilan was also allocated seven State seats — Gurun, Kota Darulaman, Bakar Arang, Sidam, Kulim, Bukit Selambau and Lunas. The party was also eyeing Guar Chempedak, Bayu and Kuala Ketil.

Pas won seven parliamentary and 12 State seats in Kedah in the last general election while Keadilan has one State seat.

The recent re-delineation of electoral boundaries did not affect Kedah which has 15 parliamentary and 36 State seats.