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PAS-Perak

PAS AND KEADILAN REACH AGREEMENT ON SEAT DISTRIBUTION

IPOH, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional have reached an agreement on seat distribution in Perak for the next general election, said Perak PAS Commissioner Ahmad Awang.

He said the distribution would be based on the 1999 general election formula where PAS contested in seven parliamentary and 21 state seats and Keadilan, seven and 15 respectively.

"We also agreed to swap seats. Where possible, we want a straight fight with the Barisan Nasional (BN) although there is no pact with the DAP," he told reporters here.

Keadilan, it is understood, will contest in Lenggong, the only new parliamentary seat created in Perak following changes to the electoral boundary.

In the last general election, PAS won the parliamentary seats of Parit and Parit Buntar and state seats of Gunung Semanggol, Titi Serong and Belanja while Keadilan only won one seat -- Bota state seat.

Besides the two parliamentary seats it won, PAS also contested in Bagan Serai, Kuala Kangsar, Bukit Gantang, Gerik and Tambun.

Ahmad said PAS was confident of increasing its seats because of the more Malay majority seats in the state legislative assembly from 34 out of 52 previously to 38 out of 59 at present.

On claim that the appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the country's fifth prime minister could erode support for PAS, he said there would be not much impact.

"We admit that he has terrific personality and religious background compared to Tun (Dr Mahathir Mohamad). He also talks a lot about fighting corruption....but that is just talk and we don't know whether it can be done or not," he said.

--BERNAMA

AR ABG