

Possible changes in Selangor and KL DAP line up

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The looming polls may see changes in the Selangor and Kuala Lumpur DAP line up with the possibility of Selangor senior exco member Teresa Kok having to let go of one of her seats.

Kok is currently the incumbent of the Seputeh parliament seat in Kuala Lumpur, which she has held since 1999, and the Kinrara state seat in Selangor, which she took in 2008 general election.

Speculation is rife that Kok will be asked to focus on Selangor in the coming election.

Kok (left), who was initially active in Kuala Lumpur, shifted her political focus to Selangor since her appointment as state senior exco in 2008 and elected state DAP chief in 2010.

It is understood that the party's central leadership prefers Kok to concentrate on Selangor, although she prefers otherwise.

If she does so, her place in Seputeh is likely to be filled by academician Ong Kian Ming, who joined DAP last August.

Ong is well known for his work at the Malaysian Electoral Roll Analysis Project, which exposed irregularities in the electoral roll.

Designated for chopping block?

Besides them, there are also two DAP state representatives in Selangor who are likely to face the axe.

One is Selangor state exco Ronnie Liu (below), who holds the Pandamaran state seat in Klang and embroiled in a few controversies during his term.

He is likely to be replaced by Petaling Jaya councillor Tiew Way Keng.

Teratai state assemblyperson Jenice Lee, who lost her Selangor DAP Youth chief post last year, is also likely to be phased out with another female candidate replacing her for the seat.

Kok, however, has waved off the speculation that she will let go of Seputeh, insisting that she will defend her parliamentary incumbency.

"If the party wants me to choose either one, I will choose Seputeh. I have made it clear to the leaders and the public," she said in a telephone interview with Malaysiakini.

She also explained through SMS that her candidacy in the Kinrara state seat during the 2008 general election was part of the "election strategy" to win an extra seat for the party.

Strategy factor in play

"As to whether I will again contest in Kinrara, the party will decide in accordance with the 'one person one (seat) with exceptions being for strategic reasons'."

"(It) means one fights to win an extra seat for the party, or to help carry other state or parliament candidates or enhance the overall line up in the state or parliament line up."

Meanwhile, Jenice Lee said she is still intent on defending her seat and the party has not informed her about being dropped.

Malaysiakini has also tried to contact Ronnie Liu, but to no avail.

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