

Mat Sabu, Guan Eng say no to three-cornered fight

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By Susan Loone

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu is confident that negotiations for the Sungai Acheh seat between the party and PKR will be resolved before nomination day.

Asked if there would definitely be only a two-corner fight, and not three in the state constituency, the politician popularly known as Mat Sabu (right) said, "Yes".

The central PAS and PKR leadership in Kuala Lumpur are expected to discuss the matter and decide on a solution soon, he added.

"We will be discussing it and the deadline is nomination day, 9am," he told reporters when met at the Penang DAP headquarters in Jalan Rangoon today.

Asked his personal opinion about the matter, Mat Sabu initially said, "The party is not my own."

"My personal opinion is that we should discuss and come up with a final decision," he later said when pressed.

On whether the situation would affect Pakatan Rakyat's performance in the coming general election, Mat Sabu said he does not think so.

"We have resolved hundreds of them (seats) and only this one is left to discuss," he said.

DAP won't intervene

Mat Sabu was referring to the announcements by both state PAS commissioner Salleh Man and state PKR chief Mansor Othman on the Sungai Acheh constituency.

Salleh announced the party's state Youth chief Yusni Mat Piah while Mansor has confirmed Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia chief Badrul Hisham Shaharin's (Chegubard) candidacy there.

Salleh (left) was firm about PAS contesting the seat, saying it has been decided by the party's leadership in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng earlier told a press conference that the party would not intervene in the seats negotiation between PAS and PKR but expressed hope that there would not be a three-corner fight.

He added that the DAP will leave the bilateral discussions to the parties' central leadership in Kuala Lumpur.

"We just heard about it on Tuesday when Mansor announced the candidate for the seat," he said during the announcement of the Penang Pakatan manifesto, which will be launched at Vistana Hotel at 6pm on Monday.

Asked if Pakatan had ever discussed or agreed on one-to-one fights since it has gone through many elections together in the past, Lim said, "This is a natural conclusion."

He declined to comment further nor shed light on the leadership squabble between DAP and PKR in Johor, saying, "We are in the presence of the BN media."

Salleh and Mansor were absent from the press conference today, while other PKR leaders like state vice-presidents Abdul Halim Hussein and Abdul Malik Kassim and state PAS deputy commissioners Takiyuddin Hamzah and Mohd Fauzi Yusoff were present.

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