

PSM to defend two seats under PKR logo

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The impasse between PSM and PKR over several seats drew closer to resolution with the former agreeing to field its incumbents for the Kota Damansara and Sungai Siput seats under the PKR logo, as it did in 2008.

Meanwhile, PSM secretary-general S Arutchelvam has confirmed to Malaysiakini in a text message today that the party has agreed to put him in Semenyih.

"Unless good sense prevails and PKR removes their parachute candidate," he said, referring to the possibility of facing a three-corner fight.

PKR had announced earlier this week that its candidate for Semenyih, namely its Serdang party division chief Hamidi Hassan, will be contesting there.

Arutchelvan (left) earlier said the impasse between PSM and PKR's decision was reached after bilateral negotiations were concluded yesterday.

"Initially, PSM wanted to stand in these seats using its own symbol, but PKR appealed for PSM to stand under their logo or face three-corner fights.

"PSM, taking into consideration the larger goal and public interest, agreed to use the PKR logo," he said in a statement.

"Based on the agreement, PSM will only stand in the coming election under a Pakatan party logo but from the next election onwards, PSM will be allowed to stand under its own logo."

Heading off further interference from PKR, Arutchelvan added that part of the agreement reached during negotiations was that "PSM be allowed to operate as an independent party without any condition from PKR".

The incumbent in Kota Damansara is Nasir Hashim while the incumbent Sungai Siput MP is Dr Michael Jeyakumar.

ABU keen to mediate

PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim (right) had earlier raised concern about PSM's 'clenched fist' logo creating confusion.

Party insiders said that PKR had threatened to field its own candidates in the seats if PSM refused to bow to their request, effectively forcing the smaller party to risk three-corner fights.

On another note, there is no news as yet about the Jelapang seat which PSM also intends to contest.

Meanwhile, a group of concerned citizens from the anti-Umno coalition ABU has offered to mediate in any disputes between the two opposition parties.

Chagrined at the apparent ideological clash between liberal PKR and socialist PSM, ABU is urging them to focus on the rakyat's need to overcome BN instead.

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