

7 newbies, 4 casualties in Penang DAP list

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Penang DAP's candidacy list, announced at 1pm, shows most of the incumbents being retained, with seven new faces and four casualties.

Three out of its seven parliamentary candidates are new, one has been reassigned from a state seat, while four out of 19 state seats have been assigned to newcomers.

In the line-up are 10 DAP Socialist Youth members and five women candidates.

National chairperson Karpal Singh's 'one candidate one seat' policy is seen coming into effect as two incumbents holding both parliamentary and state seats have been assigned to only one.

They are deputy secretary-general P Ramasamy (Batu Kawan) and state chief Chow Kon Yeow (Tanjong).

Both are dropping their parliamentary seats to fight for only the Perai and Padang Kota state seats respectively.

Secretary-general Lim Guan Eng is the only exception to the rule, and will defend his Bagan parliamentary and Air Putih state seats.

Others who have retained their parliamentary seats are Karpal (Gelugor) and Jeff Ooi (Jelutong).

'Parachute candidate' annoys

One of the new faces at the parliamentary level is Lim's political secretary Zairil Khir Johari (below) in Bukit Bendera replacing incumbent Liew Chin Tong, who is contesting a seat in Kluang, Johor.

Others include Penang municipal councillor Steven Sim in Bukit Mertajam replacing incumbent Chong Eng, who is to be fielded in the Padang Lalang state seat.

Kasturi Rani, daughter of DAP veteran P Patto, is said to be the candidate for the Batu Kawan seat in the mainland.

Her expected candidacy has caused a stir among some Indian supporters in Nibong Tebal who have been sending text messages that Kasturi will be parachuted to Penang to "kill-off" another member of their community.

Speculation has been rife that lawyer K Mangleswari will be replacing Ramasamy in Batu Kawan, but things remain murky as certain quarters are still lobbying for Kasturi Rani for the Penang seat.

Meanwhile, outspoken Komtar incumbent Ng Wei Aik has been reassigned to the Tanjung parliamentary constituency, replacing Chow.

Casualties cause stir

The four incumbents dropped from the list are Michael Tan (Padang Lalang), Tan Beng Huat (Jawi), Koay Teng Hai (Pulau Tikus) and Koid Teng Guan (Sungai Pinang).

Supporters of Koay and Koid are upset and this has sparked small protests in their constituencies.

Replacing them are newcomers MPPP councillors Lim Siew Khim (Sungai Pinang) and Soon Lip Chee (Jawi), Lim's special officer Yap Soo Huey (Pulau Tikus) and Teh Lai Heng (Komtar).

In Bagan Dalam, it is learnt that the party is considering V Krishnamoorthy Naidu. However, incumbent A Thanasekharan already paid his deposit to the Election Commission office on Thursday, securing his place as the candidate.

10 incumbents remaining in their current state seats are:

Phee Boon Poh (Sungai Puyu), Lim Hock Seng (Bagan Jermal), Jagdeep Singh Deo (Datok Keramat), Law Heng Kiang (Batu Lancang), RSN Rayer (Seri Delima), Wong Hon Wai (Air Itam), Yeoh Soon Hin (Paya Terubong), Teh Yee Cheu (Tanjong Bungah), Lau Keng Ee (Pengkalan Kota) and Lydia Ong Kok Fook (Berapit).

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