

PKR-PAS Sg Acheh battle unfortunate, says DAP

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By Susan Loone

The tussle between PAS and PKR in Sungai Acheh is "unfortunate" and DAP national chairman Karpal Singh says he hopes the matter will be resolved soon.

The leaders of DAP, PAS and PKR would meet on this after the general election to ensure that cases like this are not repeated.

"The nomination papers have been filed and even if one withdraws, his name will be on the ballot paper and this will create some confusion," Karpal told a press conference at his residence in Penang today.

He was commenting on the candidacies of Badrul Hisham Shaharin of PKR and Yusni Mat Piah of PAS in the Malay rural seat in Seberang Perai Selatan against Umno's Mahmud Zakaria.

PAS and PKR are meeting over the issue to try to resolve the crisis tomorrow.

In Nibong Tebal last night, PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim said the fielding of candidates by PKR and PAS for the Sungai Acheh seat arose from a misunderstanding between both parties when nominating their respective candidates.

This was rather unfortunate, Anwar said during a ceramah at Kampung Tok Keramat, which falls under Sungai Acheh, under the Nibong Tebal parliamentary constituency.

"Give us another two or three days to resolve the matter," Bernama reported Anwar as saying.

Anwar also defended his decision to field blogger Chegubard, whose real name is Badrul Hisham Shaharin for the Sungai Acheh state seat.

Sungai Acheh will see a three-cornered fight among Mahmud Zakaria of the BN, PKR's Chegubard and Mohd Yusni of PAS.

Mahmud beat PKR's Dr Azhar Ahmad by 250 votes in the 12th general election.

On the other matter of some incumbents being upset because they were dropped as candidates at the eleventh hour, Karpal said "some care must be taken to explain to the persons concerned about this".

It is learnt that another PKR incumbent, Tan Hock Leong (left), is contesting as an independent in Machang Bubuk because as he was upset about being dropped in a phone call from state PKR chief Mansor Othman the night before the party candidates received their letters of appointment.

Meanwhile, Datok Keramat candidate Jagdeep Singh Deo urged the Election Commission to ensure that the battle this time was clean and fair by taking down the 1Malaysia flags that have flooded the whole of Penang.

"These flags are not a symbol of any contesting party. The EC should order that they be taken down in 24 hours. Today is Sunday, so we hope the flags can be removed tomorrow," Jagdeep said.

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