

Chegubard forges ahead with Sg Acheh candidacy

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By Susan Loone

Despite it meaning a clash with an ally, PKR's Sungai Acheh candidate Badrul Hashim Shaharin will keep his candidacy for the state seat, unless told otherwise by the party leadership.

"The instruction from my party is that I continue my campaign," he told a press conference in Sungai Acheh.

"The Pakatan leadership is still discussing the matter and I will abide by their decision."

He had earlier presented 10 promises for Sungai Acheh should he win the seat.

Badrul Hisham, more popularly known as Chegubard, will meet PAS' Yusni Mat Piah and Umno's Mahmud Zakaria in a three-way contest for the Malay rural seat.

"My relationship (with Yusni) remains amicable. We've known one another other for a long time. In the campaigns, I lead the show," he said.

The seat initially belonged to PAS, which 'lent' it to PKR in 2008, but PAS lost the seat to Mahmud (left) by a 250-vote margin.

About two years ago, Chegubard was invited to campaign with the hope he would be candidate for the Nibong Tebal parliamentary seat, which covers Sungai Acheh, Jawi and Sungei Bakap.

Jawi and Padang Lalang are Chinese-majority seats and are currently held by DAP.

Penang municipal councillor Soon Lip Chee and Bukit Mertajam incumbent Chong Eng will contest these seats respectively.

Both PAS and PKR were locked in a tussle up to nomination day and the two candidates - Chegubard and Yusni (right) - turned up at the centre to file their documents last Saturday.

In the general election, the two parties will clash in over seven seats in Sabah, Penang, Selangor, Johor and Terengganu.

DAP national chairperson Karpal Singh has expressed unhappiness over the situation.

Despite the unresolved seat issue, Chegubard and Yusni have begun campaigning separately.

Chegubard has held public ceramah in several locations, while Yusni has held his ceramah in smaller groups or has been canvassing support house-to-house.

'No quarrel among leaders'

Asked about his chances of victory in a three-corner battle, Chegu Bard said he views this "positively".

"Let the voters choose who has the best offer. The vote should not be based on my calling my opponent bad or vice versa, it should be based on what we can do for the community," he said.

Chegu Bard also said he received his letter of appointment to contest the Sungai Aceh seat on April 19.

And while there were squabbles between his and PAS supporters on nomination day, he said: "I look at it like child's play. At leadership level, we are not fighting. We shall debate.

"This Sunday, I am inviting Yusni and Mahmud to present their manifestos for the people of Sungai Aceh. I believe they will join me on the stage."

PAS online organ Harakahdaily has since reported that the party has decided to 'give' the seats of Sungai Aceh, Panti in Johor and Labuan to PKR.

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