

Khalid's campaign juggling too many potatoes

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SELANGOR Incumbent Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim has begun warming up his campaign for the Port Klang state seat yesterday by engaging with his potential constituents.

However, having lunch at a local warong, the public reception showed that Khalid still has work to do to win voter appeal in this state seat - mainly comprising business communities and those in the shipping industry.

Khalid, (left) who had just recently decided to move from his Ijok state seat to Port Klang, spent about 35 minutes at the warong, with a handful grabbing the opportunity to take photos with him while many others rushed through their lunch hour.

He is also defending his Bandar Tun Razak parliamentary seat, which means his campaigning schedule is tight and it showed as he put in fleeting appearances in his campaign trail here.

Shortly after the lunch, he delivered a brief speech at a DAP ceramah at Pandamaran, his neighbouring state constituency, as he rallied the Chinese community there to support Pakatan Rakyat.

"Thank you for choosing Pakatan for Selangor. We have proved in these five years that we can perform.

"This time, give us a chance to continue," he said in his speech of two minutes.

His appearance was well received by a 2,000 strong crowd which gathered for the small roadside ceramah, ignoring the sweltering heat, to watch Khalid, and mainly DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng speak.

But early signs show that Khalid is shoring up support via DAP, which, judging by the turnout at the ceramah, is extremely popular in Klang.

Hopping from one ceramah to another

Later he had to cancel a walkabout at a local market in Port Klang as his tight

schedule did allow any time for the trip, as he hopped from one ceramah to another.

DAP is fielding newcomer Tan Pok Shyong for the Pandamaran state assembly, replacing former Selangor state executive councillor Ronnie Liu.

With Badrul Hisham Abdullah, the former PKR rep for Port Klang known to have ignored his duties here since his defection from PKR to Umno, Khalid will attempt to appease the voter disgruntlement here.

But he would also have to juggle his campaigns in his parliamentary constituency, where his visibility is much needed, along with his duties as the Selangor Pakatan Rakyat chief, which means campaigning on behalf of his colleagues in the state.

His operations centre has just recently been set up in Kota Pandamaran and he has a heavy schedule as he also campaigns for the Bandar Tun Razak parliamentary seat, where he is the incumbent.

However, he has Ronnie Liu (right in photo), who, despite being dropped for the Pandamaran state seat, has been seen helping out Khalid in his bid to win the Port Klang state seat.

Khalid will be up against Nasarrudin Zin of BN here.

There are 40,028 voters in the state seat comprising 51 percent Malays, 28 percent Chinese and 18 percent Indians.

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