

Permatang Tinggi PKR branch join Umno
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The Permatang Tinggi PKR branch was dissolved when its 56 members quit the party today to join Umno.

Its deputy chief Ismail Md Ali said they decided to join Umno and BN as they had lost trust in the opposition party which they felt was not committed to the party's struggle.

"We are also fed up with PKR's sweet promises because until today, two years after winning the Machang Bubuk state seat, none of the promises made have been fulfilled," he told reporters after handing over their membership forms to join Umno to Bukit Mertajam division chief, Senator Datuk Musa Sheikh Fadzir, in Bukit Mertajam.

According to Ismail, PKR members in Permatang Tinggi were also disappointed with the leadership of Machang Bubok assemblyman Tan Hock Leong who allegedly had not been going to the ground to meet the residents.

"Each time we invited Tan to meet the residents here, he would have an excuse and since winning the seat, he has not met the residents to listen to their problems," he claimed.

Ismail said they chose Umno as the platform to continue their struggle as they had confidence in the party led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Meanwhile, Musa said the decision by Ismail and his fellow former PKR members to quit the party and join Umno was a wise move for the good of the Malay community in the state.

"Umno welcomes their entry. To date, members from three more PKR branches in the Bukit Mertajam area have discussed with me and informed their intention to dissolve their branches.

"They have chosen to join Umno as they are fed up with the PKR leadership of placing self-interest above the grassroots'," he said.

Musa, however, declined to reveal which PKR branches would be joining Umno but said that about 300 PKR members from the area would quit the party soon.

- Bernama