

**Malay political party 'still relevant in Singapore'**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**08 August 2010**

SINGAPORE - The Singapore Malay National Organisation (PKMS), the only Malay political party in the island republic, said it was still capable of fighting for the future of Singaporean Malays.

Its president, Borhan Ariffin, said the PKMS was the best platform for Malays in the country to voice out their views and hopes.

"The party is still relevant in Singapore politics," he told reporters after a PKMS Delegates Conference here today.

The PKMS, originally a branch under the Umno party before Singapore split from Malaysia, is a component party under the opposition Singapore Democratic Alliance.

Besides PKMS, other parties with the alliance are the Singapore People's Party and Singapore Justice Party.

Borhan said since its formation, PKMS was "the voice of the Malays until now" and worked with Singaporeans to develop the country.

He said Malays in the country should support and join the party because it could fight for their welfare in various fields such as education and economy.

PKMS secretary Muhammad Ali Aman said the party used to be the government's ears because it was through them the voices and sentiments of the Malays would be heard.

He said Singaporeans were generally not warm towards opposition parties, which was also how the Malays regarded the PKMS.

However, he said the PKMS would work towards improving their performance for acceptance by the Malays, as well as other races.

Muhammad Ali said the party would also continue its cooperation with other party components in the opposition alliance to face the upcoming general election in Singapore.

He said they would ensure the component parties did not take part in a three-cornered contest.

He said there were many prominent Malay figures in Singapore who were eligible to become leaders, adding that the party proposed to carry out programmes to produce future leaders among the younger generation.

Muhammad Ali said the special meeting held today was to approve several resolutions to iron out internal issues within the party.

PKMS currently has about 3,000 registered members. - Bernama

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