

PKR leaders pull out in show of support for Nallakaruppan

KUALA LUMPUR: Several Indian leaders in Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) who will not be contesting for supreme council seats said they are doing it to show support for Kepong chief Datuk K.S. Nallakaruppan.

Selangor PKR deputy chief P. Krishnasamy, Lembah Pantai deputy head Mohd Sidek Mohd Ibrahim, Segambut chief M. Maniselvam and Jempol vice-chief R. Madhavan, who are among those who said they won't be contesting, said they were

unhappy that Nallakaruppan was asked to withdraw from the vice-president's contest.

He said Nallakaruppan had received the second highest number of nominations for the post.

"He (Nallakaruppan) is a close ally of party adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and if he is asked not to contest, the people will know where the instructions came from," he said, adding that PKR had handled more Indian issues after Nallakaruppan

joined the party last August.

On Friday, Nallakaruppan told *The Star* that he would not be contesting for one of three vice-president's posts.

When contacted yesterday, he again confirmed he had withdrawn from the race.

"I submitted my letter of withdrawal on Friday," he said.

The contest is now among cardiologist Dr Lee Boon Chye, Women chief Fuziah Salleh, incumbent vice-

president Azmin Ali, PKR Sabah deputy chief Jeffrey Kitingan, appointed vice-president Mustaffa Kamil Ayub and supreme council member Dr Xavier Jeyakumar.

Krishnasamy said he could not understand PKR Youth vice-chief S. Manikavasagam's stand to contest a supreme council seat.

"He had sent SMS to all Indian members and had also contacted the press (to say he would not contest). But now, he has changed his tune,"

he said.

Manikavasagam earlier denied reports he had backed out of the contest.

Meanwhile, Rasah Youth vice-chief R.S. Dines said he had received four nominations to contest for a post in the Youth Exco, disputing Manikavasagam's statement that he was not eligible to contest.

However, he has informed the party that he would not be contesting.

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