

Johor DAP wants to take over PKR seats
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JOHOR BARU: State DAP chief Dr Boo Cheng Hau, who is embroiled in a crisis over his leadership, wants the party to field more candidates in Johor in the next general election, including in seats contested by Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) in 2008.

Met while opening DAP's service centre in Johor Jaya, Dr Boo brushed aside questions on the reported rift among party members in Johor.

He instead pointed out that DAP had gained much ground in the state.

"We will contest more seats in the next general election, including in areas previously contested by our allies, particularly PKR."

Dr Boo said Johor DAP would field a candidate to contest the Johor Jaya state seat which was supposedly allocated to PKR.

MCA's Tan Cher Puk won the seat in 2008 when he defeated Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) candidate Md Nashir Wahab with a majority of 10,488 votes.

The Chinese make up 48 per cent of the voters there, followed by the Malays (44 per cent), Indians (7.5 per cent) and others (0.5 per cent).

Dr Boo said DAP would not give way to any other party within the coalition when it came to contesting the Johor Jaya seat.

"In the 2008 general election, the PRM candidate was beaten with a huge majority of over 10,000 votes. That is why DAP is insisting that our candidate should be placed there this time around."

Dr Boo said Johor DAP was in the process of submitting the list of its potential election candidates to the party's leadership.

"We will retain some of our former candidates and replace others. I am not sure whether I will be retained as the decision will be made by the party's candidate selection committee."

On Sunday, about 20 members of the Bakri DAP division gathered at the car park of a mall in Jalan Ali to protest against Dr Boo.

They carried banners accusing Dr Boo of being autocratic and accused him of pushing for Johor DAP secretary Tan Chen Choon to contest the Bentayan state seat in the next general election. They also called on DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng to take action against Dr Boo.

The incumbent is Gwee Tiong Hiang, but his membership was recently suspended for allegedly misusing party funds.

It is an open secret that Dr Boo leads a moderate faction in the state DAP which is opposed by Gwee and his allies, who belong to the more radical one backed by the national

party leadership.

Meanwhile, Universiti Sains Malaysia political analyst Sivamurugan Pandian said continued bickering in a party would affect its support.

"Any factions or open arguments will reflect negatively for any party, much more so for the opposition as it is no longer just seen as the opposition, but as a ruling government in certain states."

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