

**Salang Ready To Defend Julau Seat For Fourth Term**  
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PAKAN (Sarawak), Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Julau MP Datuk Joseph Salang Gandum is ready to defend his seat for a fourth term in the next general election, provided his constituents, party (Parti Rakyat Sarawak, PRS) and the state and federal Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership give their blessings.

"Otherwise, I am quite ready to step down," Salang, who is federal deputy information, communications and culture minister, told a meet-the-people session at longhouse Rh. Tuat anak Bunya in Lubok Embawang, Nanga Wak, near here yesterday evening.

He was responding to requests from a number of community leaders who wanted him to continue serving the rural constituency.

Salang said that if he were to be re-nominated, the BN in the Meluan state seat, which is a part of the parliamentary constituency, would have to work especially hard because a certain leader in the area had started a campaign to remove him and instigate the voters against him.

"I have been described as an outsider and that I was not committed to bringing progress and development to the constituency. But, I am sure the majority of the voters do not share his opinion nor his emotions, especially in the Pakan state seat (the other state seat in the constituency)," he said.

Salang, 61, first won the seat in the 1999 general election. In the last general election, in 2008, the PRS vice-president won the seat with a 7,581-vote majority, beating retired Julau District Officer Labang anak Jamba who stood as an independent.

Meanwhile, PRS president Tan Sri Dr James Jemut Masing said in Kuching yesterday that the party had yet to go into the details of its candidates for the next general election.

PRS has six parliamentary seats, namely Sri Aman, Lubok Antu, Julau, Selangau, Kanowit and Hulu Rajang.

"We hope to deliver all these seats to the BN again but we are still checking on the ground. However, if we use the 2011 state election as a benchmark, we are confident of retaining all the six seats," he said.

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