

**PAS wants mixed seats for non-Muslim wing**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By Shannon Teoh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 — PAS has lobbied its Pakatan Rakyat (PR) partners for mixed seats to field candidates from its non-Muslim wing that was formed during its party congress in the middle of the year.

The Malaysian Insider understands that PAS is unwilling to field leaders from the PAS Supporters Congress (DHPP) in seats it already contests, as they are nearly all Malay-majority constituencies.

“They can run under the party flag, that is no problem. The problem now is all our seats are Malay-majority. How can they run there?” said a political bureau member.

He said of the 66 federal seats the Islamic party contested in March 2008, only Kota Raja, where Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud beat the MIC incumbent, was not Malay-majority.

The Malaysian Insider reported in July that PAS has been eyeing parliamentary seats won by six PKR candidates who defected after Election 2008 as well as others such as Kuala Kedah and Machang, the latter of which is now held by PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution.

Three of the MPs who defected, N. Gobalakrishnan (Padang Serai), Tan Tee Beng (Nibong Tebal) and Wee Choo Keong (Wangsa Maju), won in mixed seats.

A top leader from DHPP, which was established as a supporters’ club just prior to the 2004 election but only made PAS’s fourth wing this year, told The Malaysian Insider that PAS has continued to ask for these seats.

This is despite agreeing with PKR and DAP that the final say over seats won in Election 2008 belongs to the victorious party.

“But it will be very tough. I don’t think PKR will let go,” he said.

Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim’s party counts mixed urban seats as its main stronghold and is also facing a stiff contest against Barisan Nasional (BN) as it seeks to retain leadership of the Selangor state government.

Umno has also declared it can win back the PKR-held seats as the PR linchpin is seen as the weakest link in the Opposition pact.

PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang also said in September that the party aims to win 60 federal seats in a general election expected soon.

This was after vice president Salahuddin Ayub said in July the party wanted to contest 80 federal seats.

However, in Malay-majority seats, its candidates will come face-to-face with Umno which has won at least 60 per cent of Malay votes in a string of by-election victories since Datuk Seri Najib Razak took over as prime minister in April 2009.

Election 2008 saw PKR become the largest Opposition party in Parliament with 31 MPs as BN suffered its worst performance ever, ceding five state governments and 82 parliamentary seats.

PAS, despite being the largest PR party in terms of membership, was the smallest in Parliament with only 23 MPs after the polls.

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