

Zaid says will run in Kota Baru under KITA
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 — Datuk Zaid Ibrahim today reversed plans to break up his Parti Keadilan Insan Tanah Air (KITA), saying he will run for the Kota Baru parliamentary seat under its banner in the next national polls.

The KITA leader had last month insisted he would dissolve the party, following internal squabbles.

“The candidates of Pakatan (Rakyat) and [Barisan Nasional] don’t have much experience, and I am the veteran there, so I think I am better compared to the two,” he told reporters at a news conference in Petaling Jaya today.

He added that the party will disclose its other election candidates later this month, now that it has resolved the leadership dispute in Kedah and Penang.

“It was a mistake for taking them in, but since we have removed them, no more mistakes now,” he reportedly said, referring to Zamil Ibrahim and Tan Tee Beng, who were respectively were Kedah and Penang chiefs.

Zaid, a former Umno lawmaker, joined PKR in June 2009. He was sacked from Umno over his protest against the arrests of the DAP’s Teresa Kok, blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin and journalist Tan Hoon Cheng under the Internal Security Act (ISA) in 2008.

Zaid had contested for PKR’s deputy presidency against Azmin Ali and Mustapha Kamil Ayub before he pulled out and quit the party last year. He was also PKR’s candidate for the Hulu Selangor by-election in 2010 but lost his bid to MIC’s P. Kamalanathan.

Zaid had alleged gross abuse in PKR’s election process, which eventually led him to form KITA.

But the two-year-old party has been fraught with internal bickering and challenges against Zaid’s leadership by other KITA members, who have disagreed with his pro-opposition stand.

Zaid recently announced that KITA will not be contesting the coming polls and promised to offer the party’s “unconditional support” to the federal opposition.

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