

'Hot Seat' Miri Likely To See Straight Fight Between BN, PKR
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MIRI, April 18 (Bernama) -- A straight fight between Barisan Nasional (BN) and Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) will be the likely scenario in the urban Miri parliamentary seat, as Miri PKR chairman Dr Michael Teo Yu Kheng is set to be fielded as a candidate facing Barisan Nasional (BN) new face Datuk Sebastian Ting Chiew Yew.

Miri has been among the parliamentary seats in Sarawak causing a headache to the opposition due to overlapping claims by PKR and DAP as both parties claim a better chance at winning.

Dr Teo, who was the early bird purchasing nomination paper even before the official announcement by PKR de-facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, has confirmed he will be contesting the Miri seat.

"Today, I am in Kuching to receive my 'watakah' from the PKR headquarters to contest as PKR candidate for Miri," he told Bernama here today.

Dr Teo, who lost narrowly to Datuk Lee Kim Shin for the Senadin state seat by 58 votes, is confident he can mount a strong challenge to win the Miri seat, which has been a Miri BN stronghold.

Miri has a total of 71,287 voters and three state seats - Pujut, Piasau and Senadin - under the Miri parliamentary seat. Pujut and Piasau were won by the DAP while BN took Senadin in the 2011 state election.

PKR has previously announced its candidates for the five parliamentary seats of Batang Lupar, Saratok, Hulu Rajang, Baram and Limbang but stopped short of announcing the rest of the seats it intended to contest due to overlapping claims by DAP and PAS.

PKR has expressed interest to contest 12 seats in Sarawak but the opposition pact has been unable to solve the seat allocation until today.

However, for Miri, the internal problem faced by the DAP and at the same time, the tussle for the seat, may give BN the edge, come polling day on May 5.

Miri DAP has its share of internal problems as the party's top leadership has decided to nominate Lim Su Kien for the Miri parliamentary seat, sparking protests from DAP branches here.

This has resulted in the sacking of six of their grassroots leaders here for insubordination and repeatedly tarnishing the party's image.

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