

**GE13: Four Ex-DAP Members Contesting As Independent Candidates In N.Sembilan  
Bernama  
18 April, 2013**

SEREMBAN, April 18 (Bernama) -- Four former DAP members, including Seremban parliamentary seat incumbent John Fernandez, today announced they are contesting as independent candidates in the 13th general election (GE13) on May 5.

Fernandez said he would defend his Seremban parliamentary seat which he won in the last general election after defeating Barisan Nasional candidate Datuk Yu Chok Tow with a 3,948-vote majority.

"I will contest in the Seremban parliamentary seat where I have been serving in the last five years and I am also announcing my resignation from DAP effective yesterday," he told reporters here.

He said three former DAP members who announced quitting the party recently would be contesting state seats.

They are former Taman Bukit Emas DAP branch chairman S. Vijayan, who will stand in Bukit Kepayang, former Nilai Perdana DAP branch vice-chairman S. Rajasheger (Nilai) and ex-Rantau DAP member R. Sasikumar (Temiang).

Fernandez said the action to quit the party and contest as independent candidates was taken as DAP was no longer a multi-racial party and was marginalising the Indian community as Indian leaders in the party were not named as GE13 candidates.

He said it was also to give DAP a run for its money in its stronghold in Seremban and he hoped voters would choose the right leaders.

The Seremban parliamentary constituency has six state seats in which the DAP won three -- Nilai, Lobak and Temiang -- while PKR won two (Sikamat and Ampangan), and BN only held Lenggeng.

Accompanying Fernandez and his partners contesting as independent candidates are two more independent candidates, lawyer S. Karthigesan, standing in the Senawang state constituency and businessman S. Daniel, in Port Dickson.

All of them today took and filled their candidate forms for 13GE.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=943122>