

PKR Candidates To Pay RM5 Million Compensation If They Defect
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JOHOR BAHRU, April 19 (Bernama) -- In what appears to be a pre-emptive strike, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) has made it compulsory for its candidates in the 13th General Election to pay RM5 million in compensation to the party - in the event they defect after receiving the appointment letter to stand in either a state or parliamentary constituency.

The party has also made its candidates sign a pledge, promising not to defect from the party once they have received the appointment letter or after they are elected.

"After receiving the appointment letter, if any candidate withdraws before nomination or jumps ship, they need to compensate RM5 million to the party," said PKR deputy secretary-general Steven Choong.

Speaking to reporters before presenting appointment letters to several candidates at the party's office in Bandar Baru Uda here Friday, he said those who failed to pay the compensation would be dragged to court.

He stressed that there would be no turning back for the candidates, upon receiving the appointment letter.

The drastic action was taken after many of PKR's elected representatives defected from the party after the 12th General Election.

Meanwhile, a renowned artiste from the 80s, Dayangku Intan Tengku Abdul Hamid will contest as PKR candidate in the Pengerang parliamentary constituency against incumbent Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said who had won the seat uncontested for two terms.

Azalina was the former youth and sports minister.

Pengerang is among 12 parliamentary seats which the PKR is contesting in Johor.

The party is also contesting in 12 state assembly seats.

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