

DAP Candidate Contesting As Independent, May Face Action
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MELAKA, April 20 (Bernama) -- Nearly all the seats to be contested in Melaka in the general election will see straight fights between Barisan Nasional (BN) and the opposition.

Straight fights are slated for all the six parliamentary seats with attention focused on Bukit Katil which will pit state BN chairman and Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam against Melaka PKR chairman Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin.

The Masjid Tanah parliamentary constituency will see Mas Ermieyati Samsudin (BN) facing Mohd Nasaie Ismail (PAS) while Damian Yeo Shen Li (DAP) will do battle with Datuk Koh Nai Kwong (BN) in Alor Gajah; Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Md Diah (BN) with Rahim Ali (PKR) in Tangga Batu; Sim Tong Him (DAP) with Dr Yee Kok Wah (BN) in Kota Melaka and Datuk Ahmad Hamzah (BN) with Raja Rahmat Yusof (PKR) in Jasin.

Of the 28 state seats in Melaka three -- Gadek, Machap and Kota Laksamana -- will see three-cornered fights.

However, Kota Laksamana grabbed the limelight when Sim made a surprise move to also contest the state seat there against his DAP colleague, Lai Keun Ban, and the BN candidate, Datuk Chiu Ting Chai, who is the Melaka People's Progressive Parti (PPP) chairman.

Sim's action is seen as side-lining the party and action may be taken against him by the DAP leadership.

State DAP secretary Liou Chen Kuang said the Melaka DAP was expected to convene a special meeting this afternoon to discuss the matter.

"For the moment I understand that Sim has been given notice to explain his action (contesting on an independent ticket)," he told Bernama here.

The incumbent for the Kota Laksamana seat is Betty Chew Gek Cheng, wife of Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng, who announced that she was not defending the seat.

The other two state seats that will see three-cornered fights are Gadek which will feature Abdullah Sani Rejab (Independent), Datuk M. S Mahadevan (BN) and G. Rajandran (PKR) and Machap where Datuk Lai Meng Chong (BN), Ginie Lim Siew Lin (PKR) and S. Ravinther (Kita) will lock horns.

Rembia will see two women leaders -- Datuk Norpipah Abdol (BN) and Rusnah Aluai (PKR) -- slugging it out while male-female battles will take place in two state seats -- Datuk Hassan Abdul Rahman (BN) against PAS' sole woman candidate, Kintan Man, in Sungai Rambai and Ab Halim Ab Jalil (PAS) against Datuk Latipah Omar (BN) in Taboh Naning.

Meanwhile, the BN's candidate, Datuk Idris Haron, who is tipped to be successor to the Melaka chief minister's post, will face Asri Buang of PKR in Sungai Udang.

Idris is the incumbent for the Tangga Batu parliamentary seat while Mohd Ali is moving from the Bukit Baru state seat to the Bukit Katil parliamentary seat.

The Melaka Umno is contesting 18 state and four parliamentary seats while the MCA will stand in seven state and two parliamentary constituencies and Gerakan, PPP nd MIC one state seat each.

In the last general election the BN won five parliamentary and 23 state seats while the DAP garnered one parliamentary and five state seats.

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