

Multi-Cornered Contests Dominate GE13
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 -- The 13th General Election (GE13) will see 452 straight fights and 275 multi-cornered tussles in both the parliamentary and state constituencies, with the Kalabakan and Sulabayan seats in Sabah leading the pack with seven-cornered contests.

Unlike the GE12 in 2008 where straight fights dominated the scene except in Sabah, GE13 will see a multi-cornered fights galore throughout as independents and small parties like Berjasa, Malaysia United People's Party (Parti Bersatu Sasa Malaysia or Bersama) and Parti Cinta Malaysia (PCM) have joined the fray.

Based on statistics provided by the Election Commission, Sabah still leads with 36 four-cornered fights, including 23 four-cornered ones for the state seats.

In Peninsular Malaysia, the most crowded field is Selangor with the Kapar parliamentary seat and Kota Damansara and Kajang state seats witnessing a six-way fight, while another five seats in the state are into five-cornered tussles.

Sidam in Kedah and Machang Bubuk in Penang, both state seats, see six contestants respectively, and Perak will be seeing 19 three-cornered contests.

Nevertheless, the number of contestants within a constituency failed to breach the record set in 2008 by the Tanjong Kapor and Sukau state seats in Sabah which witnessed eight-cornered contests.

It is not only a crowded field but also a mixed one with old faces, titans and minnows slugging it out in multiple-cornered fights this time.

Surprisingly, Sabah BN's strongman Abdul Ghapur Salleh who won the Kalabakan parliamentary seat unopposed in 2008 has ended up in a seven-cornered fight with Malvine Reyes (STAR), Usman Madeaming (PAS) and independents Mohd Manuke, Freddie Japat Anak Simol, Yayha Zainal and Siamsir Borhan.

The Sulabayan state seat is also crowded with seven contestants.

The Kajang state seat also sprung a surprise with six contestants - Lee Ban Seng (BN), Lee Chin Cheh (PKR), Mohamad Ismail (Berjasa) and independents Ong Yan Foo, Mohd Khalid Kassim and Mohd Iwan Jefry Abd. Majid.

One of the closely watched parliamentary seats, Cameron Highlands, will see a five-cornered fight involving BN's G. Palanivel, who is also the MIC president, DAP's M.Manogaaran, Berjasa's Mohd Shokri Mahmood, and independents T.Alagu and K.Kisho Kumar.

In another five-cornered fight for the Seremban parliamentary seat, BN's Datuk Yeow Cha Thiam will take on DAP's Loke Siew Fook, Berjasa's Abdul Halim Abdullah and independents John Fernandez and Bujang Abu. Fernandez is the incumbent and due to unanticipated developments, he is returning as an independent.

The Subang parliamentary seat is also into a five-cornered tussle with Sivarasa Rasiah

(PKR), Pakas Rao Applanaidoo (BN), Mohamad Ismail (Berjasa), and independents Edros Abdullah and Nazaruddin Mohamed Ferdoos all vying for the seat.

Another BN leader, Datuk Seri Chor Chee Heung, who is also the housing and local government minister, is in a four-cornered contest with Gooi Hsiao Leung (PKR), Abdul Fisol Mohd Isa (Berjasa) and Jawahar Raja Abdul Wahid (Bersama).

In Kuala Lumpur, two of the hot seats, namely the Lembah Pantai and Bandar Tun Razak parliamentary seats, will be witnessing three and four-cornered fights respectively.

In Lembah Pantai, BN's Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, the federal territories and urban wellbeing minister, takes on incumbent Nurul Izzah Anwar of PKR in a three-cornered fight with independent Rusli Baba, a trader.

The constituency witnessed a three-cornered fight in GE12 while it was a straight fight in Bandar Tun Razak. But this time, incumbent Tan Sri Abd Khalid Ibrahim of PKR, who is also the Selangor menteri besar, is being challenged by BN's Tan Kok Eng and two independents, Mohamad Sukeri Abdul Samat and Mokhtar Salahudin.

It is a three-cornered tussle for the Bagan parliamentary seat where DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who is also the Penang chief minister, will face off BN's Chua Teik Siang and PCM's Lim Kim Chu.

Elsewhere, many of the hot seats like Gelang Patah where titans Lim Kit Siang (DAP) and Datuk Seri Abdul Ghani Othman (BN), the outgoing Johor menteri besar, will see straight fights.

In a surprise turn of events, the disgruntled Umno Wanita deputy chief Datuk Kamalia Ibrahim, turned the race for the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary seat into a three-cornered fight by joining the fray as an independent with Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad (BN) and Khalil Idham Lim (PAS).

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