

PKR's Kebun Bunga rep in bid to clear name of fraud claims
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By Opalyn Mok

GEORGE TOWN, April 12 — A former Penang Bar Committee Chairman has come out to clear incumbent Kebun Bunga state assemblyman Jason Ong Khan Lee from allegations of criminal breach of trust (CBT) and forgery.

Datuk CV Prabakaran, together with Ong, held a press conference this morning at Ong's office to refute allegations that the PKR state assemblyman was involved in a forgery and CBT prior to 2008.

"I have a letter from the Advocates and Solicitors' Disciplinary Board absolving Ong from these allegations," he said.

A complaint by a playing-card company against Ong over his alleged involvement in forgery and CBT had been submitted to the Advocates and Solicitors' Disciplinary Board in January 2007.

The board had stated in a letter dated June 2012 that there was no forgery or CBT on Ong's part, but had imposed a fine of RM4,000 on Ong for failing his professional duty by having refused to release the documents requested by the complainant's new solicitors.

This morning, Ong said the CBT and forgery allegations against him have been spread since Election 2008 after he won the Kebun Bunga state seat.

"It is time for me to clear my name from these baseless allegations and I have lodged police reports to prove that my name is clear," he said.

"I want to tell my constituents that I don't have any 'baggage' and that I am clean and qualified to defend my seat," he added.

This will be the third time that Ong is contesting in elections if the PKR party leadership were to field him again.

He had contested for the Pulau Tikus state seat in 2004 before winning Kebun Bunga in 2008.

There were talks that Ong has been dropped from the candidates list due to these allegations, which were deemed damaging to the Pakatan Rakyat component party.

Ong stressed that today's press conference was not about whether he will be fielded, saying he will leave it to his party leadership to decide.

"I just want to clear my name as a person and a lawyer because I have been framed by certain parties," he said.

Prabakaran said the PKR leadership is yet to confirm Ong's candidacy for Election 2013.

"He has been very hardworking in his constituency especially in sprucing up Rifle Range so I hope he will not be dropped as a candidate," he said.

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