

PKR's Khalid Ibrahim hints leaving Ijok for Port Klang
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By Syed Jaymal Zahiid

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 – PKR's central leadership wants Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim in Port Klang instead of Ijok, the Selangor menteri besar said today.

The corporate hotshot-turned-politician announced on Twitter today he may run for the Port Klang state seat instead of defending the rural Ijok he won in Election 2008.

"PKR leadership is hoping for a 'heavyweight' candidate to convince Port Klang voters & I have been given the leadership's mandate to contest there," he said in his twitter account @Khalid_Ibrahim.

"I will meet with supporters in Port Klang tomorrow & if they support my contest, I will work for a bigger victory for PR," he added, referring to the opposition Pakatan Rakyat pact by its initials.

A source close to the caretaker menteri besar confirmed the news when contacted by The Malaysian Insider.

"Yes, the announcement was made at Ijok just now," said the political aide who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Abdul Khalid's statement would likely strengthen speculation that PKR is not confident of the incumbent's ability to defend Ijok.

The rumours had also sparked talks that the party may not retain him as menteri besar if PR gets to keep Selangor in Election 2013.

PKR had defeated Umno in the Pelabuhan Klang state seat race in 2008 with a 4,047 majority but its assemblyman then, Badrul Hisham Abdullah, defected to Umno in 2010.

Abdul Khalid (picture) noted that his party had erred in picking Badrul.

"PR made a mistake in picking a candidate that hopped (defected). I hope I can redeem PR's mistake and give a better service to the voters of Pelabuhan Klang," he said on Twitter.

He added that he had recommended a local, the party's Federal Territories chief Dr Idris Ahmad, as PKR's candidate for Ijok, saying the medical specialist had been with the party's struggle since the "Reformasi" era in 1998.

"For Ijok I recommend a local Jawa native of Ijok that is Dr Idris – a specialist doctor who has struggled with the party since its Reformasi era".

The Malaysian Insider had previously reported that PKR was considering removing Abdul Khalid from the Ijok contest as he was unpopular there.

Sources told this news portal that Ijok voters saw the caretaker menteri besar as an "absent" representative.

"Locals see him as an absent representative, that he is never around so there is a perception. Sometimes we understand that he is the MB but even his people are never around so it's hard to work on the ground," a high ranking PR leader told The Malaysian Insider.

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