

Port Klang for PKR's Khalid
Malaysian Insider
April 13, 2013
By Debra Chong

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 — Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim confirmed today he is standing for state election in industrial Port Klang, leaving behind the rural Ijok seat he won in Election 2008.

The caretaker Selangor menteri besar had tweeted yesterday he may not be defending Ijok after PKR's central leadership signalled they needed a "heavyweight" to take over Port Klang from its incumbent Badrul Hisham Abdullah.

"I accept the leadership's proposal to contest in P. Klang & promise to work hard to ensure the best for P. Klang as well as the people of Selangor," he said (picture) in his twitter account @ Khalid_Ibrahim.

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

Abdul Khalid had acknowledged his party had erred in picking Badrul Hisham.

"PR made a mistake in picking a candidate that hopped. I hope I can redeem PR's mistake and give a better service to the voters of Pelabuhan Klang," he tweeted yesterday.

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

Ijok voters were upset with Abdul Khalid whom they viewed as an "absent" representative, party insiders had disclosed.

"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.

Abdul Khalid however will be defending his Bandar Tun Razak federal seat in the May 5 polls.

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Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/port-klang-for-pkrs-khalid/>