

**BN-vs-PAS-vs-PKR in Sungai Aceh**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**April 20,2013**  
**By Opalyn Mok**

NIBONG TEBAL, April 20 — Both Pakatan Rakyat (PR) allies PAS and PKR have refused to back down from contesting the Sungai Aceh state seat, making it a three-cornered fight for the rural seat in south Seberang Perai.

Both PKR and PAS have been in dispute over the seat, traditionally contested by PAS before 2008 when the party gave way to PKR to contest there against Barisan Nasional (BN).

BN's Datuk Mahmud Zakaria won the seat in Election 2008 with a 250-vote majority.

Mahmud is defending the seat, this time against Yusni Mat Piah (PAS) and Badrul Hisham Shahrin (PKR).

This is the only three-cornered fight involving PR components who have made a pact to only field a single candidate for each constituency.

Party leaders from both parties have been trying to resolve the dispute over the seat unsuccessfully for the past few months.

The Sungai Aceh constituency has over 66 per cent Malay voters, 26 per cent Chinese and eight per cent Indians.

It is one of BN's strongholds in the state which it retained even though with a much-reduced majority in 2008 compared to the more than 3,000-vote majority in 2004.

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