

PKR-PAS tussle for Sungai Aceh seat unresolved
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GEORGE TOWN, April 20 — Just hours before nominations open for Election 2013, Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) internal tussle for the Sungai Aceh state seat between PKR and PAS remains unresolved.

PKR, which was supposed to announce the Penang candidates list last night, has yet to reach an agreement with its PR ally on the disputed state seat located within the Nibong Tebal parliamentary constituency.

The seat was contested by PAS in 2004 but due to a pact in Election 2008, the party gave way to PKR to contest that seat.

Both parties have been in negotiations for the seat but have not been able to reach a consensus.

Two weeks ago, Penang PAS commissioner Datuk Salleh Man announced that PAS will contest the seat by fielding Penang PAS Youth chief Yusni Mat Piah, a day after Penang PKR chairman Datuk Mansor Othman (picture) announced that blogger Badrul Hisham Shahrin, known as Chegubard, will be fielded there.

Last night, Mansor announced only several of the candidates to be fielded in Penang while avoiding any mention of the Sungai Aceh seat.

When asked about this, Mansor said they have "almost resolved" the dispute.

"You will know for sure by tomorrow when we submit the nomination form," he said.

Dr Afif Bahardin, one of PKR's new candidates who is being field in Seberang Jaya, said for sure it would be a straight fight between PR and Barisan Nasional (BN).

In an official list sent out via email by PKR, the Sungai Aceh seat was in the list with Badrul Hisham listed as the candidate.

In PKR's line-up of state candidates, three incumbents were dropped.

Incumbent Kebun Bunga state assemblyman Jason Ong Khan Lee has been dropped and Cheah Kah Peng will be defending the seat. The incumbent for Batu Uban, S. Raveentharan, has also been dropped and T. Jayabalan picked to defend the seat.

PKR is contesting 16 state seats and four parliamentary seats. It won three parliamentary and nine state seats in Election 2008.

Mansor, the incumbent Penanti state assemblyman, is being fielded in the Nibong Tebal parliamentary seat while Dr Norlela Ariffin will defend the state seat for the party.

The other incumbents who are defending their seats are Abdul Malik Kassim (Batu Maung), Ong Chin Wen (Bukit Tengah), Law Choo Kiang (Bukit Tambun) and Maktar Shapie (Sungai Bakap).

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