

**Misunderstandings forced PAS-PKR seats overlap, Pakatan leaders say**  
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**By Amin Iskandar and Ida Lim**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) leaders admitted today that the embarrassing six-seat overlap between PKR and PAS candidates in the country's most intense polls battle was caused by a last-minute misunderstanding and technical glitches.

PAS vice-president Salahuddin Ayob said the PAS leadership will discuss this issue in a meeting tomorrow to find a solution for the "technical" problem.

"To me, this is a technical problem and there was a misunderstanding at the last stage in areas where there are overlaps," Salahuddin said when contacted by The Malaysian Insider.

"There was a failure to handle this misunderstanding at the final stage and I believe all this will be successfully resolved in the shortest time," he said.

At the close of nominations yesterday, PAS and its ally PKR both fielded candidates in six seats nationwide - one federal seat, five state seat - although seat negotiations in the opposition pact was said to be concluded.

The PR coalition was left red-faced over the situation, with Barisan Nasional (BN) officials taking digs at its ability to work together for such a crucial electoral contest.

The seat overlaps could likely cause a split in voter support between PAS and PKR, indirectly giving BN an upper hand in the May 5 polls, an election where every vote counts.

PKR vice-president Chua Tian Chang (picture) said that in such a situation, one of the parties needs to give way.

"The best way to solve this problem is for the leaders to discuss.

"Either one has to withdraw. There will be talks on Monday," he wrote in a text message to The Malaysian Insider.

PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu said the seat overlaps between his party and PKR should not have happened, but believed it could be resolved.

"I cannot comment further. Tomorrow the PAS leaders will discuss to resolve this problem. This should not happen, I believe it can be resolved," said the leader popularly known as Mat Sabu when contacted today.

Another PKR vice-president, N. Surendren, did not view the seat overlap issue between PAS and PKR as a major problem.

"Not many seats that are overlapping for PAS and PKR. Only a few, we do not overlap in many of the rest.

"We will do the necessary as soon as possible."

DAP veteran leader Lim Kit Siang said it was still early to comment on the issue.

"I think that all will be discussed and hopefully resolved. It's too early for me to give a response to that," he said when asked for comments during a press conference in Johor.

The Labuan federal seat will see a three-corner fight involving PKR's Ibrahim Menudin, Hadnan Mohamad of PAS and BN's Rosman Isli.

The Sg Aceh state seat in Penang will see PAS's Mohd Yusni Mat Piah and PKR's Badrul Hisham Shahrin going up against BN's Datuk Mahmud Zakaria.

The four other state seats are Kota Damansara, Bukit Besi, Kota Putera and Seberang Takir.

In Election 2008, the opposition denied BN its customary two-thirds win and won five states.

For Election 2013, 13.3 million voters including over 6,000 overseas voters will decide the fate of the candidates in 222 federal seats and 505 state seats. Sarawak held its state elections in 2011.

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