

## **Bukit Gelugor Independent Candidate Insists Being PAS Member**

**Bernama**

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GEORGE TOWN, May 12 (Bernama) -- "I am a PAS member and several top party leaders have known me since my early involvement in politics," said Mohamed Nabi Bux Mohd Nabi Abdul Sathar who is contesting an independent in the Bukit Gelugor parliamentary by-election.

Mohamed Nabi Bux, 63, denied he was an Umno member as alleged by PAS leaders and said PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu had even given a 'ceramah' (talk) at his house in Kampung Banjar, Gombak, in 2000.

He also showed a PAS membership certificate to prove his point.

"When I made the decision to stand in this by-election, they denied my membership in PAS and accused me of being an Umno member," he told reporters after the nomination for the Bukit Gelugor by-election at the Dewan Sri Pinang here Monday.

He was commenting on a statement by PAS information chief Datuk Mahfuz Omar in a portal news report yesterday that denied he was a PAS member and that he was a Gombak Umno member.

Meanwhile, a minor commotion occurred outside the Dewan Sri Pinang after the nomination when an independent candidate, Abu Backer Sidek Mohamad Zan, uttered the word pariah during a news conference.

His remark angered several Indians gathered there who demanded that he make an open apology.

Abu Backer Sidek, who is a lawyer, refused to apologise and claimed that he had not used the word to refer to Indians but to people who resorted to street demonstrations.

His excuse was not accepted and an exchange of words took place for about 10 minutes before an Indian journalist said he would lodge a police report.

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