

**We're not taking part in GE14, says Perkasa
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Malay rights group Perkasa today clarified that it is not planning to contest in the next general election, but says members are free to do so under the banners of existing political parties or as independents.

Perkasa secretary-general Syed Hassan Syed Ali, in a statement, said Perkasa would instead be focusing on campaigns and programmes to educate and create awareness among the Malays on certain issues and ensure that they made informed choices during the polls.

"This is to ensure that the Malays do not make the wrong choice when voting for parties contesting in the 14th general election," Syed Hassan said.

"Perkasa's only involvement in the next general election will be conducting these programmes and campaigns.

"The group will not be contesting in the polls. However, members are free to contest under the banner of other political parties or as independents," said Syed Hassan, referring to the 13th general election where Perkasa president Datuk Ibrahim Ali contested in the Pasir Mas parliamentary constituency as an independent.

"Perkasa cannot bar its members from contesting as an independent," he said, pointing out that there were similar precedents in the past.

The Malay rights group was rocked yesterday when the entire Pahang leadership resigned in protest against the group's reported involvement in the next general election.

Malay daily Sinar Harian reported that Perkasa Pahang disagreed with the group's involvement in politics and also being part of a special 14th general election team.

Perkasa Pahang head Datuk Dr Abdul Wahid Abdul Manap and 19 committee members tendered their resignation after being informed about the group's intention to be a political body.

Syed Hassan said Perkasa Pahang would continue to prosper and move forward as a new leadership would be announced soon.

"About 90% of the Perkasa Pahang are prepared to stay on after accepting my explanation over the group's involvement in the 14th general election.

"The entire issue was caused by a misunderstanding over an internal letter during a meeting yesterday evening."

Syed Hassan said that despite Perkasa's membership of more than 600,000, the group had no intention of registering and becoming a political organisation.

"There has been no discussion by the Perkasa leadership to take the group into the next level and become a political party."

Syed Hassan said Perkasa would continue to defend the special rights of the Malays and Bumiputera and to defend the purity of Islam without fear or favour. – August 17, 2014.

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