

## **'PKR's decision to contest PAS seats will see Umno win'**

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**By Ikhwan Hazwan**

**KUALA LUMPUR**, Johor PKR 's decision to contest in eight additional state seats, including those previously vied by PAS, will only benefit Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

PAS Ulama Council chief Datuk Dr Mahfodz Mohamed said such a move by PKR would split support for the Opposition, especially among the Malays.

PAS, he explained, would definitely be contesting in Malay-majority areas while there was also the possibility of the newly-formed Gerakan Harapan Baru contesting the same seats.

"Thus, the votes will be split into two or three parties and if Umno can maintain its support, it will surely win due to the split in Opposition votes," he told *The Rakyat Post*.

Mahfodz, however, admitted that PKR had the right to contest any seat it wished as Pakatan Rakyat as a coalition no longer existed.

He was commenting on the statement by Johor PKR chairman Hasan Karim that the party would contest eight more seats, including three which were previously contested by PAS, namely Gambir, Puteri Wangsa and Permas.

Johor PKR will also continue to contest in 12 parliamentary seats and 12 state seats which it contested in the last general election.

Mahfodz added that PAS would also put its candidates in several additional state and parliamentary seats in the coming elections, as what PKR intended to do.

He said PAS and PKR were merely practising the freedom of democracy in contesting the seats as they were no longer bound by the status quo under the Pakatan coalition, as what happened during the last general election.

"PAS will definitely increase the number of seats to contest in the 14th general election."

In the last general election, PAS contested eight parliamentary seats and lost all. It won four of the 31 state seats contested.

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