



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
03 APRIL 2018 (SELASA)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

- Testing the waters

01-03



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Star
Metro **CENTRAL**
TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2018

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Picture of serenity: A member of the public enjoying a spot of fishing at the Pandan lake in Pandan Perdana. — SHAARI CHE MAT/The Star

Testing the waters

Pandan parliamentary seat is set for a three-pronged fight between Barisan Nasional, PKR and PRM. Potentially, a first-time candidate will be up against an ex-assemblyman making a comeback, while voters wait to see who will contest in place of the incumbent, who is ineligible to run in this elections. >2&3



Leong (standing, second from right), who is speculated to contest the elections in Pandan for the first time, is no stranger to the area.

Three-corner contest expected in Pandan

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Gear up for election

Stories by SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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THE Pandan parliamentary seat is in the spotlight now that MP Rafizi Ramli from PKR cannot contest in the 14th general election.

Rafizi is not eligible to stand in the elections after being found guilty of leaking confidential banking details belonging to the National Feedlot Corporation.

The question now is, who will contest? It is a parliamentary seat that Pakatan Harapan is keen to hold on to.

The next candidate is important as Rafizi was the first opposition candidate to win the seat in 2013 with a large majority of 26,729 votes.

With big shoes to fill, PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution promised that a senior leader would be fielded in the Pandan parliamentary seat.

"We will put the best candidate from our senior leaders in Pandan," he said during a campaign rally in Taman Seraya, Pandan.

One of the names that is gaining traction to contest the seat is party vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar.

She is speculated to leave her current Lembah Pantai seat for the relatively safe seat of Pandan following the redelineation exercise by the Election Commission.

Talk of Nurul Izzah contesting in Pandan has been lingering for weeks, following claims of waning support and the movement of postal votes in the Lembah Pantai constituency.

However, it had also been whispered that she would contest the

Parliamentary seat an important one as both sides of the political divide seek to redeem themselves



Pandan Indah is a state constituency as well as the capital for the Ampang Jaya municipality. — filepic

Johor Baru parliamentary seat as Pakatan was reportedly planning to field a big name there.

In 2008, Nurul Izzah defeated Wanita Umno chief Tan Sri Sharizat Abdul Jalil in Lembah Pantai before successfully defending her seat in 2013 against former Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing minister Datuk Seri Raja Nong Chik Zainal Abidin.

No matter who PKR nominates for the Pandan seat, it is certain to be at least a three-cornered fight with Barisan Nasional and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) throwing their hats into the ring.

Tipped to contest under the Barisan ticket is Pandan MCA chief Datuk Leong Kok Wee.

Although it would be his first

time contesting in the elections, Leong is no stranger to the area, having started his political career there at 18 years old.

He came up through the ranks, first as Ampang Jaya MCA Youth chief, and then as Kampung Tasik Permai MCA chairman before being made the Pandan chief in 2013.

He also served three terms as an Ampang Jaya municipal councillor from 2002 to 2008.

Leong said there had been an encouraging shift in perception towards Barisan, especially in the last three years, because of the hard work in the area by leaders and members of the coalition.

"If I am chosen by the party leadership to contest, my fate will be

decided by the people, whether they want me to continue serving them," he said.

Former Teratai assemblyman Jenice Lee from PRM announced that she would be making a comeback to the political scene by contesting the Pandan parliamentary seat and the Teratai state seat.

In the 2013 general election, Lee contested as an independent in Teratai but lost to DAP's Tiew Way Keng.

"We want to 'test the market' with PRM in Pandan. So far, people have been curious about us, especially since we are not aligned to either Barisan or Pakatan.

"Our aim is to provide a strong Opposition in the Dewan Rakyat," she said.

Pandan's small-town image preserved despite its location



Nurul Izzah is tipped to contest the Pandan parliamentary seat under the PKR ticket.



Lee (right) plans to make a comeback by contesting the Pandan parliamentary seat and Teratai state seat under the PRM banner. — filepic



Pandan has a majority of middle- and low-income residents. — filepic

THE Pandan constituency has the unique position of being a stone's throw from Kuala Lumpur while retaining the charms of a quaint township.

It comprises the state seats of Teratai and Pandan Indah (formerly known as Chempaka).

The Pandan parliamentary seat borders the Ampang, Cheras, Tituswangsa and Hulu Langat constituencies.

Pandan Indah is the Ampang Jaya municipal capital.

This particular central township is self-sufficient as the public have easy access to Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ), Inland Revenue Board, Fire and Rescue Department, Pandan Indah police station, Ampang Hospital and Pantai Indah Medical Centre.

The area is a much sought-after residential location now compared to the 1990s.

The completion of the Middle Ring Road 2 (MRR2), Ampang-Kuala Lumpur Elevated Highway (AKLEH), Besraya and Dutra-Ulu Klang Expressway (DUKE) also allowed for greater connectivity to and from the area.

Two more road projects — East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE) and Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Expressway (SUKL) — are expected to be completed by 2020, which will make travelling to the area even easier.

Being neighbours with Kuala Lumpur is a bonus for Pandan as the Malaysian capital city's rapid development has spilled over to the constituency, influencing and encouraging MPAJ to be at par with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

Maintenance, rather than upgrading, has been a key talking point among the locals.

Ongoing issues to be addressed included flash floods, mushrooming of illegal traders, traffic congestion and old drainage.

MPAJ received RM16ml from the Federal Government to rehabilitate four wet markets.

There are also plans to have wastewater treatment plants installed at the markets in Ampang Jaya as part of the plan to keep rivers clean under the River of Life (RoL) project.

The markets being upgraded are Pasar Pekan Ampang, Pasar Kuala Ampang, Pasar Pandan Jaya and Pasar Tasek Tambahan.

The Pekan Ampang and Pandan Jaya markets will be rebuilt into two-storey complexes, while the other two will remain as single-storey facilities.

Among other improvement plans are increasing parking lots and upgrading rubbish disposal

areas as well as better drainage and sewerage systems.

Pandan also has a fair share of villages that have been part of the landscape for 60 years.

Making drastic changes or planning to develop Kampung Cheras Baru, Kampung Baru Ampang, Kampung Pasar Baru, Kampung Pandan Dalam Kiri and Kampung Pandan Dalam Kanan is no easy task.

Residents in the constituency largely comprised middle- and low-income people.

Teratai state seat

This area does not have many large-scale developments although it has a few matured townships. There are very few high-rise buildings with various housing estates dotting its landscape.

However, a significant addition

to the area has been the MPAJ stadium that is set to be operational later this month.

Developed by Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) at a cost of RM23ml, the stadium will have a 400m synthetic track, an international standard synthetic football field and a covered seating area of 1,100 seats.

MPAJ is the last local council in Selangor to have a stadium of its own.

Other landmarks in this state seat are the Taman Muda morning market and the Pandan Perdana lake, which was a former mining pond.

The market is one of the oldest here and is popular for its fresh produce and stalls selling cooked food.

However, traffic congestion remains an issue as vehicles are forced to park by roadsides.

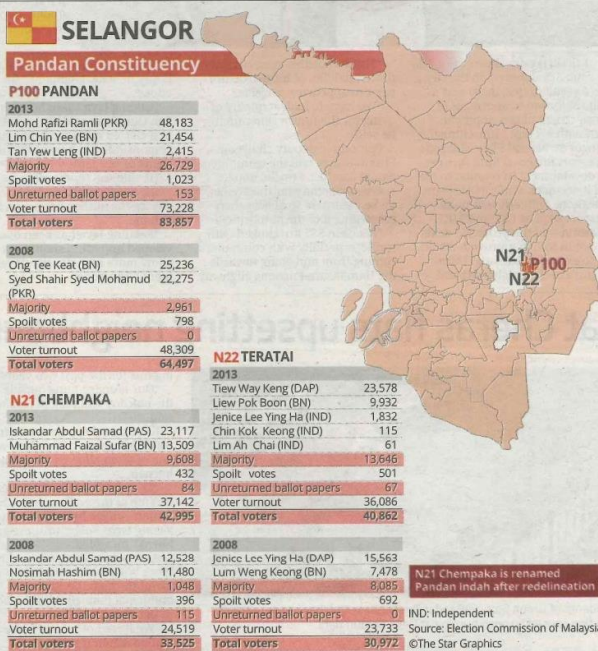
Taman Muda Selangor Hawkers and Traders Association chairman Chow Chee Keen said the issue had worsened because its only parking lot — located behind the market — was currently being developed into an entertainment and exhibition centre.

"Motorists have been allowed to double-park along the main road, which worsened traffic flow.

"This is a short-term measure, and we hope MPAJ can come up with a better solution," he added.

The constituency now comprises only 16 polling districts, one less than before the redelineation exercise.

They are Pandan Perdana Timur, Taman Muda Timur, Taman Putra, Taman Seraya, Taman Melor, Taman Mega Jaya, Taman Mawar, Taman Bukit Teratai, Pandan Perdana Barat, Kampung Cheras Baharu Barat, Taman Muda Barat,



Taman Saga, Cheras Hartamas, Tasik Permai, Pandan Indah Jalan 5 and Pandan Mewah.

In the last elections, Teratai was won by DAP's Tiew Way Keng by a 13,646 vote-majority.

The percentage of Chinese voters increased from 59% in the last general election to 62.1% currently. It now has 46,038 registered voters compared to the 40,862 previously.

Pandan Indah state seat

The Pandan Indah and Lembah Maju commercial centres have become the hub for residents in this constituency, formerly known as Chempaka.

This area is well-known for its many eateries offering varieties of local delicacies.

For residents in Taman Nirwana, Kampung Pandan Dalam Kanan, Kampung Pandan Dalam Kiri, the capital city is a leisurely drive before entering Jalan Kampung Pandan to the large Kampung Pandan roundabout, known for its many exits.

Ampang Jaya People's Consultative Council adviser and Taman Nirwana resident M. Thomas hoped the flash floods situation would be addressed soon.

However, he said MPAJ had in recent years tackled several maintenance issues in the area.

"There have been several road expansions to ease traffic, while the drainage is slowly being upgraded.

"The most significant improvement has been waste collection," he said.

However, he added that illegal roadside stalls were still a problem in the area.

In 2013, the state seat was won by Iskandar Abdul Samad (PAS) by a majority of 9,608 votes and soon it would see the percentage of Malay voters increased from 53% to 61.7%.

The state seat now has 42,451 registered voters compared to 42,995 voters in the 2013 general election.

It has 18 polling districts this time compared to 17 in the last elections.

They are Taman Nirwana, Angsana Hilir, Kampung Pandan Dalam Kiri, Lorong Raya Kampung Pandan, Pandan Jaya Utara, Taman Chempaka, Pandan Indah Jalan 1, 4 dan 6, Lorong Molek Kampung Pandan, Lorong Bersih Kampung Pandan, Pandan Jaya Selatan, Taman Bakti, Pandan Indah Jalan 2 & 3, Ampang Hilir, Cheras Indah, Taman Maju Jaya, Taman Kenchana, Kampung Cheras Baharu Timur and Desa Nirwana.