

## **The history of PSM borrowing other party Logo**

PSM applied to be registered as a political party on 30 April 1998 but we only managed to get our registration after 10 years in August 2008. This was also after a long battle, being the first party to take the Home Minister to court and after losing the case in High Court and Appeal court, we finally had a settlement a day before the Federal Court hearing in 2008. Many campaign were done locally and Internationally to get PSM registered.

As a result of this, we were forced borrow other parties logo in several election 1999, 2004 and 2008 because we were denied registration then finally in 2013, when we agreed to use PKR logo based on an agreement. Let me go back to history,

In 1999, PSM wanted to only stand in one seat – P97 Subang seat. Our intention to stand in this one seat was notified to DAP, PAS, PKN (Parti Keadilan Nasional, then PKR) and PRM leaders as early as 1 July 1999. The seat was then offered by Lim Kit Siang to Dr. Nasir. Kit Siang initially offered Nasir to become a DAP member , but we declined. He then agreed to borrow DAP logo in that election. But on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1999, we got a shocking news that the seat will be offered to Irene Fernandez of Parti Keadilan Nasional (PKN) to fulfil some Indian quota.

PSM tried to negotiate till the end but finally after putting in our nomination papers in on the morning of the PRU nomination day, we in withdrew to avoid a three corner situation. On the other hand, Lim Kit Siang then offered us the Sungai Siput using DAP logo. We agreed. Kit Siang also said that when PSM is registered, we can go back to our logo. So in 1999 was our debut election and we used our own manifesto besides Barisan Alternative. We also explained in all our leaflets that we were PSM standing under DAP ticket.

After the election, we opened our PSM Service centre in Sungai Siput as of Dr. Jeyakumar's promise to the people of Sungei Siput. DAP was not happy that we were opening a PSM service centre so in 2004 election, DAP said the condition Dr Jeyakumar be allowed to stand in Sungai Siput is that he must become a DAP member. Dr Jeyakumar declined and hence DAP did not borrow their logo to PSM.

Therefore in the 2004 election, PSM then opted to borrow PKR logo. We had meetings with PKR leaders including Wan Azizah. They agreed and PSM stood in 4 areas- Parliament Sg Siput

and Subang and 2 DUNs – Jalong in Sungai Siput and Bukit Lanjan under Subang. We stood in all the seats with the PKR logo and DAP three cornered us in 3 out of our 4 seats that we contested. In that election, there were many areas where DAP and PKR stood against each other. In all areas in Perak, where there was a clash between DAP and PKR. DAP got higher votes than PKR and most places PKR's candidates did lose their deposits. There were 2 areas in Perak where PKR did better than DAP and it was in Sungai Siput and Jalong seat contested by PSM candidates. In Sungai Siput, DAP's candidate surprisingly lost his deposit.

In Bukit Lanjan, DAP candidates was disqualified on nomination day for not bringing the deposit money. It was no surprise, we were able to bring in mre votes because of the work of our grass root work in those areas. Thus PKR did better than DAP in where PSM candidates contested compared to other places.

In 2008 election, PSM decided to exchange Bukit Lanjan state seat with Semenyih seat and Subang Parliament with Kota Damansara state seat. PSM also decided to exchange Jalong seat with Jelapang seat . For we continued to stand in 4 seats and PKR agreed to borrow their logo. Initially we were told opposition members that there was no problem but in the last minute, we were told that Jelapang is a DAP seat . They said that DAP leadership will talk to us but they never did. PKR too said that they cannot give us a the surat watakah, so we stood as independent in Jelapang. In that election 2008, we won the Sungai Siput and Kota Damansara seat.

PSM got registered in 2008, and we received SPR approval to use the PSM logo from then onwards .

Since then we also wrote many letters to work together with Pakatan Rakyat as well as applied to be a Pakatan Rakyat's coalition member. But PR never really responded and kept us in the limbo until the Parliament was dissolved in 2013. Thus PSM remained a non PR member. I will address the negotiation in another article but will focus on borrowing logo.

After 10 years being denied registration and having to stand in election on another party ticket we were very excited to stand in the next election using our own logo. At a function on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2008, celebrating our victory in getting officially registered as a party, Kit Siang in his speech welcomed PSM registration and said PSM will enhance the secular forces within Pakatan Rakyat.

Before the PRU13, PSM finally got a meeting with Anwar Ibrahim after Parliament dissolved on 3<sup>rd</sup>. April 2013. The meeting was held at the PKR Headquarters on 13 April 2013. The meeting was attended by Anwar Ibrahim, Tian Chua and Xavier Jeyakumar from PKR while PSM was represented by myself, Dr. Nasir and Dr Jeyakumar.

In that meeting, Anwar Ibrahim requested PSM to use the PKR logo. PSM reiterated that we just wanted to stand in the same 4 seats but Anwar said he can only commit for the 3 seats under PKR and directed us to DAP to discuss about Jelapang. In that meeting Anwar clearly said and appealed to us to use the PKR and after that we can use your own logo.

Anwar explained that in the ballot paper it has to be the PKR logo, but we can continue to fly your flag. If we succeed we can oath as PSM and not PKR. These were all discussed and agreed with Anwar Ibrahim. I hope Xavier Jeyakumar and Tian Chua who was at the meeting can confirm these events. PSM asked for three days to get back to discuss with our members. We called for a special National emergency meeting on 15-4-2013 where our members gave the mandate to use the PKR logo.

Unfortunately, in spite of those promises by Anwar Ibrahim, we were later denied the Semenyih seat because Azmin Ali disagreed with Anwar's decision to give us that seat. We were 3 cornered in the Kota Damansara seat by PAS a component party of Pakatan then. It was only in Sungai Siput we saw a straight fight with BN. We had no choice in Semenyih but to stand under the PSM logo, and Anwar Ibrahim can confirm that he finally said he couldn't do much on Semenyih but hoped that we have a friendly fight in Semenyih with the PKR candidate.

Asa for the Jelapang seat, while it was a DAP incumbent seat after 2008 but the DAP state assemblywoman whom Lim Kit Siang praised so highly off during the election campaign, disgracefully jumped ship resulting in the Perak state falling to BN again in 2009.

If DAP's Hee Yit Foong did not contest in 2008, and it was PSM candidate whom contested in Jelapang, our candidate certainly would not have jumped ship. Even at the eleventh hour in order to avoid a three corner fight in Jelapang, put forward a suggestion to let the people of Jelapang decide. We offered to get an independent group like BERSIH and ABU to do a town hall meeting with the people in Jelapang to evaluate whom they felt should be a better opposition candidate. And if the people chose a DAP candidate, then PSM will withdraw. Nevertheless DAP did not bother to take the challenge.

Now fast forward to 2018, once again we are told that PSM can only stand in one seat and that too must be under PKR logo. Soon the PH machinery will talk about how they were so

magnanimous allowing PSM a seat for the coming PRU , but supposedly PSM is being arrogant demanding more seats. They will accuse us of ‘makan dedak Najib’ etc. and to be blamed for forcing there corner fights .

PSM would be standing in PRU14 using our own logo and we hope the promise made by PH leader Anwar Ibrahim in the last election will be upheld. Those from Pakatan Harapan that speak today must understand this history of PSM's relationship with the opposition coalition.

***S.Arutchelvan***

***Central Committee Member***