

KENERING

A

Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia

POLITICAL

TEST

OF INFLUENCE

IPOH, Fri. — The Kenering State by-election on April is important for Umno and PAS as a means of measuring their respective influence since the general election.

Umno, representing the Barisan Nasional in the contest, is working hard to defend the constituency, a stronghold since the first general election.

Barisan leaders are confident that their candidate, Encik Johan Lahamat, will win. They are holding as many ceramah as they can and going on a door-to-door campaign.

For PAS, the new leadership will be out to improve the party's image to prove that even without former party president Datuk Mohamad Asri Muda. PAS still commands the support of its members and the electorate. Their candidate is Haji Mohamad Ariff Yaakob, 55.

Umno has placed a popular youth leader to contest the seat vacated by Datuk Seri Wan Mohamad Wan Teh, former Menteri Besar of Perak.

Encik Johan, 42, a committee member of Umno Grik division, is the 32nd Orang Besar hearing the



*Encik Johan . . . the
Barisan candidate.*

*Haji Mohamad Ariff...
third try*

title of Toh Purba di-Raja.

His nomination has received the support of not only the leaders and members of Umno but also of the other Barisan component parties in the constituency and the Grik division.

What is heartening to Umno leaders is the support being given by Datuk Seri Wan Mohamad and his wife at the ceramah and door-to-door campaigning.

Although no longer a

State Assemblyman and Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Wan Mohamad still commands a lot of influence in the constituency.

Umno divisions from Kedah, Kelantan and other States have also sent their members to help in the campaigning

onslaught, PAS secretary general Haji Hassan Shukri is hardly optimistic about its chances to take the seat

He said the main reason PAS was fielding a candidate was to gauge the support for the party.

Secondly, it was to disprove the belief that the resignation of Datuk Asri would break up the party.

PAS candidate Haji Mohamad Ariff is the president of PAS Grik division and a religious teacher at Sekolah Rakyat.

This is his third try for the seat. In 1969, he was defeated by Datuk Seri Wan Mohamad, and in the last general election, his nomination papers were rejected on technical grounds. As a result, Datuk Seri Wan Mohamad won again after defeating the DAP candidate, Mr Chan Ah Ka, in a straight fight.

Though PAS has brought its leaders and supporters from Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and Perak to assist in the campaigning, the prospects of an upset win are very slim.

In the last general election all the 26 PAS candidates who contested for the State and Parliamentary seats were defeated by the Barisan.

Seventeen of them also lost their deposits. — Bernama.