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Making one last bid to sway voters

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TELUK INTAN, Fri. - All seems quiet on the "battle" front despite tomorrow's expected tussle between the Barisan Nasional and DAP for the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat.

After 12 days of earnest campaigning, both the Barisan Nasional and DAP are slowing down and tonight they are making one last bid at swaying the voters to their side.

Both parties have until midnight tonight to wrap up their campaigning and almost all their leaders are present to lend a hand.

They include Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu as well as DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang.

Also present are Umno Youth and Wanita members and MCA representatives.

The BN supporters were all seen assembling at the BN operations centre at Jalan Speedy for a last briefing of tonight's campaign. A similar scene was seen at the DAP operations centre in Jalan Abdullah.

The BN candidate, Gerakan's Kampar division chairman Dr Chee See Choke, 49, is facing a straight fight with DAP state treasurer M. Kulasegaran, 39.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Gerakan MP Ong Tin Kim, 59, of liver cancer on April 9.

In the last general election, Ong polled 21,642 votes against S.A. Prosthman who obtained 7,673 votes while PAS candidate Hafith Jaafar received 2,651 votes.

There are 51,936 registered voters with the Chinese forming 45.06 per cent, Malays (34.01 per cent), Indians (20.71 per cent) and others 0.22 per cent.

Expectations are high that the BN will retain the seat, considering Teluk Intan's status as a BN stronghold since the 70s.

Even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the BN would win.

During his visit to the State yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the voters were intelligent enough to make a choice.

He added the people were more aware now and even those in the urban areas supported the Government because they realised BN was sincere in developing the country, something which had been proven many times over.

Meanwhile at the town hall, where the tele-centre is, Election Commission workers were seen preparing the ballot papers.

Votes will be counted at the polling centres before they are collected and added up at the tele-centre.

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