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`Opposition victory a political earthquake'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang today described the win by Pas in the Arau parliamentary by-election as a "Richter 5 political earthquake".

The Opposition leader, who is also MP for Tanjong, said the "tremors" of the Arau by-election won by Pas candidate Hashim Jasin would be felt in the next general election.

In a statement, Lim said it was the third by-election victory for the opposition in a Barisan Nasional stronghold since the 1995 general election.

He said the DAP's victories in the Bagan and Teluk Intan by-elections and the win by Pas in Arau had placed numerous Umno parliamentary seats at risk.

"Although the recent Umno general assembly has come and gone, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir firmly at the helm of the party and Government, the hearts and minds of the people have yet to be won."

The by-election results, Lim said, would force Dr Mahathir to re-consider the time-table for the next general election.

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