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DAP-Survival

DAP FIGHTING FOR ITS SURVIVAL, SAID KIT SIANG

IPOH, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The DAP, which suffered its worst electoral defeat in the 1995 election, is fighting for its survival in the 10th general election, said its secretary-general, Lim Kit Siang.

"It will be a do or die battle for the DAP. This election has the highest number of unpredictable elements," Lim told reporters after attending an election gathering, here, last night.

The opposition leader in the dissolved parliament said that he himself would leave his future to the people of Bukit Bendera and Kebun Bunga, where he is standing for the parliamentary and Pulau Pinang state seats, respectively.

"I think I will be able to slip through. If I can't survive there, then it's the end of my career," he said.

Asked how many seats the party would be able to win this time, Lim said they would either win big or lose big. The party only secured nine parliamentary and 11 state seats in 1995 as compared to 20 and 44, previously.

DAP is contesting 44 parliamentary and 86 state seats this time.

Lim said denying the Barisan Nasional a two-thirds majority would serve as a notice by the voters in Malaysia that if there were no changes for the better in the BN system of governance, then in subsequent general elections, they reserve the right to vote the BN out of power.

"We are not talking about toppling the government. The prime minister can be the prime minister again but we want to deny the two-thirds majority," he said.

Lim said the people were waiting to teach the BN a lesson and if the Teluk Intan by-election "wind" blows throughout the country, at least five ministers would fail.

"But that was a situation 14 months ago. But now, if the people can still see things clearly, not misled or scared, the five ministers may not be saved," he said.

DAP's M. Kulasegaran won the seat in the 1997 by-election.

Lim named the five as Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Kheng Yaik and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ting Chew Peh.

Lim said MCA and Gerakan were using four "trump cards" to influence the Chinese voters, including its cooperation with PAS and the setting up of an Islamic state.

On his police report lodged against the BN over the placing of advertisements in the newspapers yesterday, Lim said he would consider further action if BN continues its publication.

However, Lim said they have no plan to report the matter to the Election Commission at the moment.

"Dr Mahathir is very worried not that he will lose his power but the two-thirds majority. He will be the first prime minister in the history to lose the two-thirds majority," said Lim.

-- BERNAMA

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