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Election-Ijuk (News Focus)

IJUK WITH 40 PER CENT INDIAN VOTERS IS FOR BN

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KUALA SELANGOR, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Ijuk in the Batang Berjuntai area of Selangor is the only state constituency in Malaysia where Indians make up 40 per cent of the electorate and during elections it has always voted Barisan Nasional.

Being a BN stronghold it has seen rapid development all these years and is slated as the site for a university campus.

More development projects have been planned on a 5,600 hectare site in Ijuk and the Selangor Government to give the area another boost had changed its name from Batang Berjuntai to Berjuntai Bestari.

In this general election, Ijuk's two-term Barisan Nasional Assemblyman Datuk K. Sivalingam is defending his seat against V.Krishnan of the DAP and Mohamed Yusof Abdul Rahim an Independent.

Ijuk's constituents comprise Malays 41.48 per cent, Indians 40.76 per cent and Chinese 17.76 per cent.

In the General Election of 1995, Sivalingam defeated P.Sinniah of the DAP with a majority of 6,797 votes.

Most of the residents of Ijuk, 51KM from Kuala Lumpur are estate workers while there are also general agriculture workers, factory employees and those who have set up their own businesses.

Sivalingam said the BN Government had rewarded the voters of Ijuk, within the Kuala Selangor Parliamentary constituency, for their loyalty with new housing schemes, roads, technical schools, mosques, churches, temples, piped water, 24-hour power supply and low cost houses.

"Under these circumstances we will remain loyal to the BN as long as the oceans are filled with water and the heavens decorated with sun and moon," said Sivalingam who is also State Executive Councillor for Estate Workers, Mines and Consumer Affairs.

On the campaign trail, if any campaign at all is necessary here, people from all walks of life appeared to be very pleased to see the candidate.

"There is no need for campaigning, as we are more than loyal to the BN and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," the people said.

Sivalingam, 51, said two low cost housing projects involving 460 houses had been completed within the constituency in Bukit Rotan and Rantau Panjang and several more were in the planning stage.

A total of 100 families had been given land under Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) and another 164 families had been provided with agricultural land, he said.

As most of the 10 estates in the area were slated for redevelopment, it was the Selangor Government's aspiration to ensure that the workers did not lose out from the aspects of employment, housing, schools and other facilities.

Rivers had also been deepened and widened to prevent flash floods in areas such as Kampung Seri Aman and Sri Sentosa, he said.

He said Ijuk would be placed in the regional map with the development of Berjuntai Bestari and the setting up of the Universiti Industri Selangor (UNISEL) costing RM1.02 billion, a second main campus of Universiti Teknologi Mara, two five-star hotels and business and office complexes.

The Opposition could never make any headway here in Ijuk as there were no local issues instead only rapid development was taking place, Kuala Selangor Umno Division committee member Samsuri Daud said.

In Ijuk, the BN Government had set up so many factories with both

foreign and local investment and they provide a wide range of job opportunities, he said.

"What is the use of felling a tree that provides so many fruits and planting a new one in its place. It is better that we look after the existing tree so that it will continue to bear fruits," he said.

Ijuk has another advantage -- it is next to Permatang the state constituency of Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar. The projects there such as Kuala Selangor Sports Complex and tourist projects have also had a spillover effect on Ijuk.

-- BERNAMA

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