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Hadi-By-election

DIFFICULT TO RETAIN ANAK BUKIT AND PENDANG SEATS, SAYS PAS

KUALA TERENGGANU, June 26 (Bernama) -- PAS today admitted that it would be difficult to retain the Anak Bukit state and Pendang parliamentary seats in Kedah in the by-elections to be held following the death of PAS Datuk Fadzil Noor,

PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said, however, that the Barisan Nasional should not assume that it would gain easy victory like in the Ketari (Pahang) and Indera Kayangan (Perlis) by-elections, "The by-elections will be an important gauge not only in the constituencies concerned but also at the national level.

"They will serve as a gauge for the next general election and after the prime minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed) steps down in over a year," the Terengganu menteri besar told reporters after the state executive council meeting, here.

He said this when asked about PAS's preparations for the be-elections following the death on Sunday of Fadzil who won both seats in the 1999 general election.

Abdul Hadi said the by-elections would also give the second Umno's second echelon leaders a chance to show their capability during the transition of power in the party and government.

On the choice of candidates, he said the decision rested with the Kedah PAS liaison body.

He said the PAS branches in the two constituencies were gathering data in preparation for the by-elections and the party would play up national issues relating to religion including the Syariah Criminal Code Enactment ((Hudud and Qisas) Bill which would be tabled in the state assembly next month.

-- BERNAMA

MRA JK