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Election-Kit Siang

KIT SIANG BELIEVES DAP WILL CONTINUE TO WIN IN MELAKA

MELAKA, March 4 (Bernama) -- DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang is confident that the party will continue to do well in Melaka in the coming general based on tradition.

"The DAP has won here since 1969 and I feel that this will continue. Melaka is our stronghold," he told reporters after inspecting the party's election machinery at the Melaka DAP office in Jalan Malim, here.

The DAP has held the Kota Melaka parliamentary seat since 1969 and in the 1999 general election, it added Bachang to the Tengkeru, Bandar Hilir and Durian Daun state seats that it retained.

Asked whether he would be contesting the Ipoh Timur parliamentary seat, Lim, 63, said he would give it serious consideration but he was not telling whether he would.

In the last general election, he lost the Bukit Bendera parliamentary seat and also failed to win the Kebun Bunga state seat in Penang. This time the former opposition leader is said to be eyeing the Ipoh Timur seat held by Thong Fah Chong of the MCA.

He said any decision for him to contest in a new constituency would be for the overall good of the party and not for personal gain.

On the DAP's chances in the coming general election, he said: "We are at a disadvantage because of the generally 'feel good' euphoria by the public at large approving the new prime minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi."

He said the situation now was like during the 1982 general election when the BN had a big victory when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was newly appointed prime minister.

Lim also questioned the gazette of the 2003 electoral roll by the Election Commission (EC) yesterday, the same day that the decision to dissolve Parliament today was announced.

He said that according to press reports, the EC had said that the electoral roll could only be gazetted in the second week of March following objections in Kelantan and yet it suddenly announced yesterday that the roll had been gazetted.

"I hope that the EC will explain this matter because the validity of the election process for the 11th general election is based on the 2003 electoral roll," he said.

-- BERNAMA

NO NO JK