

07 MAR 2004
Election-Youths
YOUNGER VOTERS CONFIDENT OF BN TRIUMPH

ALOR STAR, March 7 (Bernama) -- The electorate from the younger generation in this "rice bowl" state, particularly those who are going to be first-time voters in the coming general election, are confident that another victory awaits the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Most of them have even pledged their votes for BN candidates comes March 21, which is polling day for the country's 11th general election.

Norhayati Hashim, 27, a youth activist from Telok Chengai, Kuala Kedah said she would not want to miss the opportunity to choose a representative who is able to safeguard the people's interest apart from bringing development.

"My vote is confidential, I will not mention the candidate who is going to receive my vote but I will choose a responsible government," she told Bernama.

Norhayati said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's leadership style is suitable for people of all ages and levels in the society.

Zohaizam Mat Zuki, 30, a worker from Kuala Sungai here said he would continue to support BN even the party is under a new leadership.

"I salute the country's leadership under Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad but his successor (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) plays the same role," he said.

Shalawati Ismail, 26, said the Prime Minister has his own charisma apart from being open to views including that from the younger generation.

The clerk, who registered as a voter last year, will cast her vote at Jalan Stesyen polling station here.

Self-employed Ezrina Elias, 25, who registered as a voter in 2000, described Abdullah as a "people-oriented" leader.

In PENANG, the younger generation has called on the government to allow them opportunities to contribute their skills, expertise and ideas

for
national development.

Cab driver Wady Yahaya, 25, said he hoped the government would further expose youths to the country's political developments and bridge the gap between the young and old.

Wady, who would be casting his vote in Pulau Betong, hopes the candidate in his constituency is a people-friendly leader.

Meanwhile S. Siva, 24, a marketing executive, said he is happy for being able to vote in his first general election and hopes the other first-time voters would exercise their rights.

"We need to perform our duties to return a government which is sensitive to the people's needs and problems," he said.

G.Raja Kumari, 28, a salesgirl at a supermarket here, said she is willing to vote for a candidate from another race as long as the person gives priority to the people's welfare.

Private college students Loh Ai Ling, 22, and Vivian Teoh, 23, said they cannot wait for polling day to cast their votes.

The duo said they wanted the current government to be retained.

Government clerk Sharifah Abdullah, 25, said she will choose a government which is responsible over the people's wellbeing and prosperity apart from ensuring the progress of future generations.

-- BERNAMA

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