

The worst is over for BN, says Perkasa chief
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Not only is the BN in a stronger position today, but it is also poised to strike back and regain ground lost to Pakatan Rakyat in the March 2008 'political tsunami'.

This is Independent Pasir Mas parliamentarian Ibrahim Ali's take on the political situation, reinforced by BN's double victory in the Merlimau and Kerbau by-elections yesterday.

"The worst is over for BN," he told reporters in the Parliament lobby today, citing the string of victories for the federal ruling coalition in recent by-elections.

He believes that one reason is that PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim has lost his once-considerable appeal among the electorate.

"It is no longer a question if Anwar is going to (take) Putrajaya or not. The question is if BN is going to regain its two-thirds majority and seats held by Pakatan, maybe even get back the opposition-held states," he said.

Ibrahim said things are looking up for BN, especially if it can avoid thorny issues that can inflame the public such as saman ekor (postal traffic summonses) and rising price of essential goods "even though it is a global phenomenon".

"I believe that if the BN can handle these issues well, it can regain support," he said, insisting that his observations are that of an Independent MP.

Ibrahim is also the leader of right-wing Malay group Perkasa.

However, Ibrahim had been among those brought in by BN to campaign on its behalf during the Merlimau and Kerbau by-elections, which saw the PAS candidate in both seats being trounced.