

## **PAS: 'Buy-election' has hit RM377mil**

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**By Abdul Rahim Sabri**

KUALA BESUT After nine days of campaigning, the small fishing town of Kuala Besut has struck gold as BN government heavyweights have continued to shower its inhabitants with projects worth millions of ringgit in conjunction with the by-election there.

Rival PAS today estimated that as of yesterday, RM377.45 million in federal and state developmental projects have been pledged to the state constituency of about 18,000 voters in Terengganu.

NONEPAS election director Dr Hatta Ramli (right) said the estimate was compiled from various announcements made by federal and state leaders reported in the mainstream and alternative media.

Describing the massive handouts as "bribery", Hatta said it confirmed his party's assertion that without the by-election, the BN leadership would have continued to ignore the needs of Kuala Besut.

"If there is no by-election, there would be nothing here and Kuala Besut would have continued to be sidelined.

"Ad-hoc planning and crisis resolution such as these is clearly not part of the state or federal budget," he told a press conference this morning.

'Where's the money coming from?'

As such, Hatta queried the source of financing for BN to fulfil its promises to the people of Kuala Besut.

Among the major projects announced, he pointed out, is the RM250 million project to deepen Sungai Besut and build wave barriers as well as a RM35 million project to upgrade a dam at Pengkalan Nangka.

"Is the expenditure coming from the federal government or is it using certain funds or is it the royalty payments for the people of Terengganu?" he said.

It is for this reason, Hatta said, PAS needs to win in Kuala Besut to bring the state assembly proportion to 16:16 in order to prevent arbitrary policies or use of funds.

Hatta circulated a list of the announced projects which also included a RM343,000 upgrade to Masjid Haji Ishal, Kampung Dengir and the construction of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Alor Peroi, Tok Saboh worth RM28 million.

NONE Also at the press conference was PAS' former Kuala Selangor MP Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad who claimed that rival BN was pouring cash on the constituency in a bid to cover up the weaknesses of its candidate Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abdul Rahman (right).

"The issue of the dam, shallow river mouths, it all has to do with the candidate... they want to cover up his weaknesses because he is the district's engineer. He cannot run from this," he said.

PAS's candidate is businessperson Azlan Yusof. Today is the 10th day of campaigning and polling day will be on July 24.

Zahid replies with sarcasm

Met by reporters later, Umno vice-president Ahmad Zahid Hamidi laughed off the allegations and claimed that the opposition are trying to take credit for BN's efforts.

"Yes, it is true. All projects in the country were implemented because PAS, DAP and PKR asked for it. Thus BN is very benevolent. Upon the opposition's request, we implement all the projects.

NONE "Because, it seems that BN has no plans. They are the only clever ones around," said Zahid in Kuala Besut.

On a more serious note, Zahid (left) said that these projects were implemented based on the needs of the people and feedback from the grassroots and civil servants.

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