

BN raises white flag in tiger's den
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YOURSAY 'If this decision of no contest can be conveyed to the late Tunku, he would wake from the grave to give Najib two tight slaps'

PM: BN won't contest Bukit Gelugor, but...

Apa nama: For the first time in close to 60 years since 1955, the Alliance and later the BN, will not field a candidate in a parliamentary by-election. Yes, BN needs to raise a white flag before the battle since the talk in the town is they will even lose the deposit.

To avoid great humiliation, it is better to stay out or as people use to say, chicken out! Congratulations to BN and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak for chickening out. We need to celebrate this cowardly move with sweets!

Not Smart: If BN cannot get a "winnable candidate" from its many coalition parties, what is the point of fielding an Independent candidate? This, itself confirms that BN is really not confident. Win or lose, as the ruling government it should put up its own candidate.

James_3392: If this decision of no contest can be conveyed to the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, he would wake up from his grave to give Najib two tight slaps.

Chapati: Entering the tiger's den would be disastrous for BN. Knowing the danger, they have made a smart move not to contest.

Antibody: Wise move Najib. Don't waste public and private money if you know the end result is negative. Spend your time energy and money on something more meaningful with gainful results like recovering MH370

Swipenter: BN always boasts of the rakyat returning to BN, so why not show us the truth? Now that PAS' Private Members' Bill on hudud is withdrawn, MCA has no reason not to contest.

If MCA still has no guts to contest then how about Gerakan? If also no, how about Umno Baru or even MIC?

Don't tell us that pesky mosquito party like PCM and the independent PAS impostor Mohamed Nabi Bux Abd Sathar have more confidence and guts than BN in contesting in Bukit Gelugor by-election?

Anonymous_40f4: BN/MCA are not scared of losing. In Kajang they stood against PKR even

though they knew they will lose. But in Bukit Gelugor there is a high possibility that the mighty devil BN/MCA may lose their deposit. It will be very shameful.

Podeh: Put the intruder Isma president Abdullah Zaik and see him mow down DAP candidate Ramkarpal Singh.

With new committee, PAS won't table Hudud Bill

Anonymous_3f4b: The Hudud Bill is only postponed, not withdrawn for good. Can PAS be trusted not to represent the bill again in future?

If they have the numbers in the next elections and control of a few Malay states they will definitely push for the Bill to be tabled.

At that point of time it will be too late to object as Umno will go with the bandwagon. It is therefore imperative that PAS must not win big in future elections.

The people must see to it that PAS even in Pakatan must not be given sufficient power to push through their Hudud agenda. PAS candidates in Sabah and Sarawak must reject PAS in its entirety.

Ferdtan; In the beginning the conservatives in PAS initiated the process of introduction of hudud, a move most Muslims are afraid to oppose as it may question their piety to the religion.

Umno jumped into the fray hoping to earn brownie points with the Muslim Malays. So they competed with each other - mostly led vociferously by the conservatives from both sides, PAS and Umno.

The moderates from both sides watch with consternations the possible 'havoc' that could spit up their parties. The coalitions in both Pakatan and BN could possibly be broken up with DAP and MCA leaving their partners to keep themselves relevant. If that happens PM Najib's faction in Umno and the progressives faction in PAS, the dominant groups, will lose out ultimately.

Thanks to the bad publicity and pressure from ordinary Malaysians speaking out in the internet coupled with the surprisingly intransigence of both parties, MCA and DAP (both really have no choice in the matter), PAS moderates have made the move in this face-saving measure to 'postpone' its Bill in the June parliamentary session.

And I can even hear the sigh of relief from the Umno side as they are not required to make a decision that could change the political landscape of the country. This is a victory for the moderates against the ultra-Muslim conservatives, whether from PAS or Umno.

We can and will make a difference by voicing out. We have to be vigilant to check them anytime and anywhere.

TehTarik: Remember that this is only a postponement. The crucial point is that PAS and Umno will form a joint committee to study hudud.

It appears that the two strongest proponents of hudud in Umno are Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and Minister in charge of religious affairs Jamil Khir Baharom.

Umno is worried that it might lose the next elections, unless it forms a pact with PAS to win over Malay votes. Umno knows that the only carrot that can entice PAS to form a coalition is religion. The New Economic Policy and racial preferential policies do not appeal to PAS, but religion does.

PAS has always been consistent in its obsession with hudud; the only question is when to implement. PAS also realises that without the support of Umno there can be no hudud.

Hence it is a marriage of convenience between the two parties. Ultimately, it is the non-Muslims and liberal Muslims who will be screwed by the PAS-Umno pact.

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