

PAS going all out to win Malay votes, says analyst

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The election of an ultra-conservative leadership line up in PAS was an indication that the party wants to focus on Malay voters.

Speaking at press conference today, political scientist James Chin said PAS' experience with Pakatan Rakyat was not impressive during the last two general elections.

"They already tried two elections with (DAP and PKR) and they couldn't succeed (in taking over Putrajaya).

"To them, there is no point in trying a third time," said Chin, who heads the Asia Institute at University of Tasmania.

Although PAS had traditionally done well in the northern parts of Malaysia, PAS has not been making new inroads in Malay dominated areas.

"PAS (thinks they) can do better on their own. They didn't do well in Malay rural areas last time.

"If they consolidate their resources in rural Malay areas, they will give Umno a real run for their money and push Umno into a corner.

Adenan will win big

On the coming Sarawak state elections, Chin believed that the results would likely be at status quo.

"Adenan will win. He will win very handsomely except in the urban areas where the Chinese form the majority.

"DAP has spent a lot of resources in the rural areas, which can be seen in their Impian Sarawak project. It will not affect bumiputera voters," said Chin, who is also from Sarawak.

He said that although Impian Sarawak might have an impact on the long term, it is unlikely to be appreciated now.

Launched in September 2013, the Impian Sarawak project has seen the party providing some basic infrastructure - electricity, water and roads - in rural areas.

Meanwhile, Chin said that there is some form of infighting within Sarawak BN, but it is unlikely to affect BN's chances.

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