

PAS: Let us retain Galas seat for Malay unity
Malaysiakini.com
September 28, 2010

With a by-election imminent in Kelantan, PAS has proposed that the BN let PAS retain the Galas state seat for the sake of Malay unity.

PAS deputy secretary-general Takiyuddin Hassan said today this would also help to check the prolonged political conflict between Umno and PAS.

He said it would only be appropriate for both parties to skip the by-election if they wanted unity among the Malays.

"However, it would be better if the seat was handed over to PAS as the party's candidate was the incumbent," he said at a media conference on the Tortura exhibition of medieval instruments of torture and punishment, at the state museum, in Kota Bharu.

The Galas by-election has been necessitated by the death from colon cancer of PAS assemblyperson Che Hashim Sulaima, 46, yesterday.

Che Hashim had won the seat in the 2008 general election by beating Mohd Saufi Deraman of the BN by a majority of 646 votes. In the 2004 general election, Che Hashim had lost to Mohamad Saufi, by 1,729 votes.

Takiyuddin said both the BN and PAS could save much cost by not contesting the by-election.

He said it would not be something impossible if political parties could collaborate for mutual benefit, as was the case elsewhere.

"Both the BN and PAS have a 50-50 chance of winning the seat in the by-election," he said, adding that PAS did not place much hope in retaining the seat.

However, Kelantan PAS election machinery advisor Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah said Galas would be an important testing ground for both BN and PAS as the outcome would depend on current issues and local sentiments.

He said PAS had won the seat in the 2008 general election based on the two issues.

The local sentiments depended on the composition of the voters who comprised Malays, Chinese, Orang Asli and Indians, he said, adding that six of the 13 polling districts were in Orang Asli settlements.

In Putrajaya, Umno supreme council member Ismail Sabri Yaakob today advised the constituents of Galas not to repeat their mistake of voting for an opposition candidate in the by-election.

The by-election was the time for the constituents to rectify their mistake of having picked an opposition candidate (in the 2008 general election), he said.

Many voters in the constituency were disappointed with the failure of the opposition to fulfill their promises, as had happened in Selangor and Penang, Ismail Sabri, who is domestic

trade minister, told reporters after attending the ministry's Aidilfitri 'open house'.

He said he was optimistic that the time was now right for the voters in Gua Musang to throw their support behind the BN, as they had done prior to the 2008 general election.

Galas is a state constituency in the Gua Musang parliamentary constituency.

- *Bernama*

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/143875>