

PR Gearing for Battle in Tenang Despite the Odds
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Kuala Lumpur – Experts are busy assessing the odds as both Barisan Nasional and its foes prepare for the upcoming by-election for the state.

Political analyst, Dr Sivamurugan Pandian predicted that the sugar and petrol price hikes, Felda land matters and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's sodomy charge would be among issues to be played up by opposition parties in the by-election. He was confident however that the BN would be able to retain the seat.

Speaking to Bernama when contacted from Kuala Lumpur, the Universiti Sains Malaysia political science lecturer said there was a strong sentiment in favour of the BN in the area.

He cautioned the BN to be wary of the decline in the majority of votes in the last two elections, which he said was about 16 per cent.

"In 2004, the BN obtained 5,517 majority but it declined to 2,492 in 2008," he said. Tenang has 14,753 voters comprising mostly Malays (7,014) followed by Chinese (5,766) and Indians (1,780).

Meanwhile, UMNO Vice-President Shafie Apdal who cautioned Barisan against complacency.

They should continue to get close to the people and listen to their problems and find a solution, said Shafie, the Rural and Regional Development Minister.

"We are confident of our machinery's capability. We will ensure strong cooperation among component parties to ensure victory to the BN," he told reporters after attending the ministry's monthly gathering here today.

(Bernama)

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