

Split chance BN takes Selangor, Kedah, PR takes N9, Perak says Monash don
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PETALING JAYA, Jan 17 — There is a 50/50 chance based on polling data that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) could lose Selangor and Kedah and Barisan Nasional (BN) could lose Perak and Negeri Sembilan said James Chin, Head of the School of Social Sciences at Monash University, Sunway today.

Chin also said that Penang and Kelantan appeared to be safe for the opposition.

He said that East Malaysia is expected to remain a fixed deposit for the ruling coalition although the federal opposition could pick up 7-11 seats in Sarawak and 6-8 seats in Sabah.

The data however was too inconclusive to predict the overall outcome of the 13th General Election said Chin, who was speaking at the Malaysia Strategic Outlook Conference 2012 here.

He also said that polls indicate that the high cost of living would be the main issue in the election rather than race or religion.

"That's probably why the government is giving out RM500 to households earning below RM3,000," said Chin. "Anwar is not a factor. People are quite fed up of sodomy stories."

The Monash lecturer said that surveys show Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's brand to be quite strong but it was unclear if the brand power would be able to translate into votes for BN.

He said that polls also show key government institutions losing credibility, with the top three losers being the Election Commission, the Police and the Immigration Department.

Chin noted that DAP and MCA were engaged in high risk tactics with the DAP planning to field Malay candidates against MCA, while the BN component party was planning to refuse any government positions if its performance dropped as compared with the last general election.

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