

PAS sees BN losing Perlis due to Umno infighting
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 — PAS has expressed confidence about wresting Perlis away from Barisan Nasional (BN) at the coming polls, following talk of a major faction war in the state chapter of the coalition's mainstay Umno.

In an interview with Harakah Daily here, Perlis PAS commissioner Hashim Jasin said the state's former menteri besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim had recently admitted to him that Perlis Umno was now in shambles and split into four factions.

"There are four groups, and according to Shahidan, one is led by him, another by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Isa Sabu, another by Pauh assemblyman (brother to the Raja of Perlis, Datuk Seri Syed Razlan Putra Jamalullail) and one by former minister Datuk Azmi Khalid," he was quoted as saying in the PAS organ.

Hashim pointed out that in the last Perlis state assembly sitting, Shahidan had openly rebuked Mohamad Isa and the latter's state executive councillors.

"I cut in, saying that it looks like Umno is split in two. He (Shahidan) replied, 'no, not two... three'.

"Recently, I asked again... how did it become three? He (Shahidan) said, 'no, it is four (factions)'," Hashim told Harakah Daily.

The three-term assemblyman also spoke of "phenomenal" changes in the state's Chinese support towards BN, expressing confidence that at least 70 to 80 per cent of the community's votes would go to Pakatan Rakyat (PR) in the coming 13th general election.

In Election 2008, Hashim noted that he had garnered 30 of the 800 votes up for grabs from the Chinese community in his Sanglang state seat.

But the tables have now turned, the PAS leader said, claiming that come the next polls, it would be BN that would get the 30 votes while PR would make a clean sweep of the rest.

"What is most interesting is that this is the first time this phenomenon is happening in this state.

"It is only this time that things are moving along this way; it was not like this before," said Hashim, who has opted out of the coming polls contest.

He said Perlis PR was well prepared to face the election, which is now speculated to be in November, saying the pact's three parties have even agreed on a "shadow Cabinet" for the state administration, in the event of a takeover.

"So if we are given a victory, we are ready. We are also confident that if we win... I am sure that PAS will lead the government in any activity," he said, according to Harakah Daily.

Hashim told the PAS newspaper that PR's three parties of PAS, PKR and DAP were very united in Perlis, pointing out that these had already settled their discussions on seat distribution last year.

"We discussed and sorted it out in May last year. It was then endorsed by representatives of each party and sent to the central leadership," he said.

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