

Parliament Dissolves, Period For The People To Think Seriously
Bernama
4 April, 2013

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- The dissolution of the Dewan Rakyat, announced by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday, was a signal for voters to seriously think about whom they want to lead Malaysia for the next five years.

For hardcore supporters, there is nothing much to think about, they are only waiting for the polling day. But for fence-sitters, now is the time to digest all developments which took place in the last four years and 11 months.

The two party system in the country gives voters a choice of Barisan Nasional headed by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak or the opposition pact advised by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

A party must win at least 112 of the 222 parliament seats in the general election to form a federal government. Since 1959 until 2008, BN had controlled the central administration and expected to do so in the 13th general election.

However, the changes in time demand more than mere records of successes to fish for votes. Moreover, the campaigning method in the coming general election is also joined by the social media which is open to abuse.

Associate Professor Dr Shaharuddin Badaruddin says, the selection trend of voters is more towards the performance of the party and the leaders' achievement records.

But, the Fellow at University of Malaya's Centre for Democracy & Elections (UMCEDEL), does not rule out popularity also plays a role to help voters select.

A study by UMCEDEL last year showed that Najib was ahead of Anwar as the people accepted his leadership well following the implementation of numerous transformation programmes, he says.

Yet, he says, a leader's popularity can change during the general election because there are other factors which play important roles including campaign strategies carried out by the contesting parties.

This view is shared by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Social Science and Humanities Faculty lecturer associate professor Datuk Dr Samsul Adabi Mamat who is confident fence-sitters play an important role in the coming general election.

He, nevertheless, does not rule out voters can be easily influenced by the rhetorical skills of political leaders in treating issues, and vote them.

As such, he says, when contacted by Bernama, voters must take into account all factors and do not accept wholesale all information obtained, before deciding, because the vote will decide the future of the nation.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=939610>

