

'Barisan will win back Kedah and Selangor'
New Straits Times
21 March 2013
By BALAN MOSES

CONFIDENCE: Najib will get two-thirds majority for BN, says Rafidah

KUALA LUMPUR: TAN Sri Rafidah Aziz, who will not be contesting in the coming general election, expects the Barisan Nasional to win back Selangor and Kedah besides regaining its two-thirds majority in the Dewan Rakyat.

The former international trade and industry minister and incumbent Kuala Kangsar member of parliament said BN would also win in Perak but conceded that it may be difficult to regain Penang, expressing similar sentiments about Kelantan.

The former Wanita Umno president, who has served 31 years as MP for Kuala Kangsar besides a term as Selayang MP, said BN would do much better this time as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had his ears to the ground and was listening to the people.

"I believe PM Najib has a deeper perception of what is happening. I believe in this very strongly. Eventually, he will make his own good decision (on candidates)."

She felt that BN, under Najib, was the only party that could continue to deliver for the benefit of the people, but that it would have to work hard to regain the two-thirds majority in the Dewan Rakyat.

Rafidah said some voters were misled and misinformed by the opposition in 2008 while others were put off by the wrong choice of BN candidates.

"In the last general election, it (candidates not accepted by the people) was one major cause (of defeat for BN candidates) because you went and put in young people. There were people who came to see me to ask why BN had changed their old state assemblyman who was very good."

Rafidah said some of the candidates had no track record in the areas they contested. As such, people could not evaluate or judge their performance "and we lost a lot of seats on account of that".

She said people today needed to elect a strong government as the environment was very challenging economically and geo-politically.

"Unless we have a strong enough government in Malaysia or in other countries, it would be easy for people to pressure us to do things we should not do. We have seen this happen everywhere.

"We have a track record of good, credible, growth."

On Pakatan Rakyat, she said it was impossible to govern a country with just a Buku Jingga (the "Orange Book" that constitutes Pakatan's proposed administration master plan) as the country needed short, middle and long-term policies.

She said the opposition was only interested in taking over Putrajaya and in some people achieving "their long and festering ambition of being the prime minister".

"I want to be prime minister come hell or high water. I want to go to Putrajaya (Pakatan leaders are supposed to be saying)... but you (Pakatan) cannot govern," she added in an obvious but indirect reference to Pakatan adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

On her decision to bow out of active politics, she said she had spent more than half her life in Parliament and that she had done her "little bit" for the people.

"I have told the prime minister that I would like to completely retire. Enough is enough. I have been an MP since 1978 (she was a senator for four years from 1974)."

Rafidah has nominated three candidates for the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary and state seats of Chandan and Manong "but the division may be nominating more".

Copyright © 2013 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/politics/barisan-will-win-back-kedah-and-selangor-1.238888>