

GE13: Plain Sailing For Isa In Jempol Parliamentary Seat
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JEMPOL (Bernama) -- Know your enemy, know yourself. This is one aspect of warfare highlighted in ancient Chinese military strategist-cum-tactician Sun Tzu's military treatise, 'The Art of War'.

The amiable Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad knows Negeri Sembilan like the back of his palm.

The veteran Umno politician also knows his profound capabilities as he was its menteri besar for 22 years, a testament that he was much-loved by the people in the state.

He was also the state's Jempol member of parliament in the 2004 General Election for one term.

And, for the coming 13th General Election (GE13) on May 5, Mohamad Isa has again been selected the Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the Jempol parliamentary seat.

Such pulling factors will only endear the man, who is currently Felda chairman, to the voters to choose him over his competitor for the seat.

The Jempol district is one of the foci of GE13 which will see Mohamad Isa battling it out with PAS candidate, Wan Aishah Wan Ariffin, a popular singer in the late 80's and 90's.

From the political landscape, the parliamentary constituency of Jempol is divided into four state seats, namely Serting, Palong, Jeram Padang and Bahau. It is one of BN's strongholds in the state.

In GE12 in 2008, BN won the Jempol parliamentary seat through Datuk Lilah Yasin who defeated Siti Meriam Naam of PAS with a 12,320 vote majority, while BN held three out of the four state seats.

For GE13, Lilah has moved to the Palong state seat to give way to Mohamad Isa to serve the constituency which has 65,213 registered voters.

Jempol Umno Youth chief Mohd Nizam Aman has predicted BN to maintain its win in the parliamentary seat and three state seats won earlier, namely Serting, Palong and Jeram Padang.

"For Bahau, BN has the opportunity to recapture the state seat from DAP as the party had failed to serve the people in the area," he said.

He also sees Mohamad Isa's candidacy rejuvenating the party machinery to strive harder.

As Felda chairman, Mohamad Isa had continued to fight for its settlers by handing over various assistance to them, noted Mohd Nizam.

"The situation is different from the PAS candidate who did not gel with PAS grassroots members as they prefer local boy, Mohd Fairuz Mohd Isa, who is Jempol PAS Youth chief."

Mohd Nizam said, based on a series of talks, Aishah neither had direction nor compelling struggles.

He said, in her ceramah, Aishah kept repeating to fight for entertainment artistes in the country when the people in Jempol were not artistes but farmers and Felda settlers.

"I am confident voters will know how to evaluate and choose the representative with the experience, credibility and capability to lead them," he said.

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