

PAS Loses Kedah, Losing Support In Kelantan
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By Mohd Razman Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Besides losing Kedah, PAS only obtained 21 parliamentary seats and lost five state seats in Kelantan, from 37 seats to 32 seats in the 13th General Election.

However, the party managed to increase its stake at the state constituency level by garnering 85 seats, as compared to 83 seats in the 2008 General Election, in Terengganu, Johor, Melaka and Selangor.

Several top PAS leaders also lost to the Barisan Nasional (BN), including its deputy president, Mohamed Sabu, in Kedah, vice-president Salahuddin Ayub in Johor and vice-president Datuk Husam Musa in Putrajaya.

The general election saw PAS win 21 parliamentary seats after it lost 52 of 73 seats.

It also saw a downward trend compared to 2008, whereby the party lost 43 of 66 parliamentary seats it contested, and won 23 seats.

The opposition coalition no longer holds 21 state seats in Kedah, like they did in 2008, as now BN controls 22 of 36 Kedah state seats, and PAS were only left to rule the rice bowl state for one term.

Universiti Malaya International and Strategic Studies Department lecturer Prof Datuk Mohamad Abu Bakar said, despite the dwindling support at the parliamentary level, PAS had strengthened its position at the state constituency level.

"PAS has increased its standing at the state constituency level with 85 seats compared to 83 seats in 2008," he told Bernama.

Mohamad said PAS and PKR managed to retain Kelantan by obtaining two-thirds of the 45 state seats, 32 under PAS and one under PKR.

In comparing to 2008, PAS obtained 37 state seats while PKR (one) and BN (seven) in Kelantan and the party won 12 parliamentary seats and BN with only two.

However, in the 13th General Election, PAS only controlled nine of 14 parliamentary seats in Kelantan while five seats were taken up by BN.

This general election also sees PAS with one of 15 parliamentary seats in Kedah, followed by four seats under its ally, PKR, and 10 seats for BN.

In 2008, PAS, PKR and BN each held five parliamentary seats in Kedah.

This election, PAS obtained the least number of parliamentary seats in the opposition coalition as compared to DAP with 38 seats, and PKR (30 seats).

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