

Pakatan gunning for 12 federal seats in Johor, says Kit Siang
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is targeting a win of 33 federal seats in Johor, Sabah and Sarawak, including 12 in the southern peninsula state, as the opposition pact seeks to unseat the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in Election 2013, Lim Kit Siang said today.

The DAP veteran highlighted a report by Chinese newspaper Nanyang Siang Pau today that quoted BN sources as saying that the ruling coalition would lose 10 federal seats in the key battleground state of Johor.

“That’s why the battle of Gelang Patah is to make a breakthrough in Johor,” Lim (picture), who is contesting the Gelang Patah parliamentary seat in Johor, told reporters at the DAP headquarters here today.

“We’re aiming for at least 12 parliamentary seats in Johor and more than a one-third majority in Johor, Sabah and Sarawak that have a total of 83 parliamentary seats. Pakatan can win 33 parliamentary seats,” he added.

Lim stressed that PR was aiming to win 125 out of 222 federal seats, with PKR having the most at 45 seats, and the DAP and PAS having 40 seats each.

“No one party will be dominant,” he said.

BN, which has been in power since independence, faces its stiffest challenge from the opposition after winning Election 2008 with the slimmest margin in history.

PR is aiming to decimate the MCA in Johor, with Lim leading the charge against caretaker Johor Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman in Gelang Patah.

Though PR is aiming to win more seats in east Malaysia, the numerous multi-cornered fights in Sabah are complicating its efforts to sweep more than the one federal seat in Sabah that it had won in Election 2008.

Lim hit out at BN and Umno today for accusing him of being the perpetrator of the May 13 race riots in their Gelang Patah campaign, besides portraying him as anti-Malay, anti-Islam and anti-royalty.

“Why use May 13 to frighten Malaysians? This is the politics of the past. Let us have politics of the future,” he said.

Lim also pointed out that 70,000 people attended his ceramah at Penang last night despite the rain.

“We collected RM230,000,” said the DAP adviser.

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