

Kuala Besut By-Election Campaign Soon To Be In Overdrive
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KUALA BESUT, July 19 (Bernama) -- The campaign for the Kuala Besut by-election, which has been 'slow to warm up', is expected to heat up nearer to polling day on July 24, following the increase in the number of posters and flags, as well as visits by party leaders since Thursday.

Gala events and ceramah are not being held this time around as the contesting parties are adopting a moderate approach in conjunction with the fasting month of Ramadan.

The election machinery of the contesting parties - Barisan Nasional (BN) and PAS - are more keen in carrying out their campaign to woo voters in the morning or at night, after the Tarawih prayers.

Besides, the Dewan Rakyat sitting, which was adjourned only on Thursday, was probably the reason why most ministers, deputy ministers and members of Parliament, did not go to Kuala Besut to help with the campaign despite nomination having taken place on July 12.

"As for the residents, they are more preoccupied with fasting and their preparations for Aidilfitri," according to an observer.

Mohd Hassan Kundor, 56, from Kampung Baharu in Kuala Besut, described the by-election campaign as less tense because there were not much activities being held.

"I only see more flags and posters being put up over the past couple of days. This is so unlike previous elections that were more merrier," he said.

Kampung Beris Pak Abu Village Development and Security Committee chairman, Anuar Mohd Musa said the BN election machinery would only carry out their campaign activities after 10pm.

He said they had not faced any provocations from the opposition supporters.

"We live in a village surrounded by relatives and separated only by different ideologies and political beliefs, but that doesn't mean we have to give a sour face to one another," he said.

BN supporters were also seen to have their own unique way to attract attention, that is by moving from one operation centre to another in a convoy of cars decorated with LED lighted party logo.

The cost of decorating the cars ranged from RM800 to RM1,500 and was borne by the respective car owners.

"I decorated my car with the 'fairy' lights before the nomination day and I never thought that the convoy will receive encouraging moral support from the public and party leaders," convoy participant Mohd Yunan Mohamad said.

The Kuala Besut by-election sees a straight fight between BN candidate Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abd Rahman, a former civil engineer with the Drainage and Irrigation Department, and

PAS candidate Azlan Jusoh, a businessman.

The by-election has been necessitated by the death of assemblyman Dr A.Rahman Mokhtar of the BN of lung cancer on June 26.

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