

**In Kuala Besut campaign, PAS rides on Idris-Ahmad rift in Umno**  
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**By Muzliza Mustafa**

In Kuala Besut, a vote for PAS is a vote for Umno's Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh (pic).

That is the gist of the PAS campaign in the July 24 by-election in the northeast Terengganu state constituency where Idris is more popular than his successor and party rival, Datuk Seri Ahmad Said.

Campaigning for PAS candidate Endut @ Azlan Jusoh, PAS campaign director Datuk Husam Musa told a crowd of 200 supporters at Kampung Pusu Tinggi last night that a vote for the Islamist party would benefit Idris who lost out on becoming menteri besar for a second term in 2008 to Ahmad Said.

"The people want Idris not Ahmad Said. If PAS wins, Idris will be strong," Husam told reporters after the ceramah.

A win for PAS would also produce a hung state assembly as Idris' Barisan Nasional (BN) now holds 16 seats in the 32-seat state assembly to Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) 15 seats.

Husam said a PAS win would force Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno to change menteri besar if it could keep the east coast state.

He also said that Idris, who is now Education Minister II, would have more plans for Besut unlike Ahmad Said.

He gave the example of the controversial Monsoon Cup that was Idris' brainchild when he was menteri besar for a term in 2004.

But Husam denied he wanted to create tension between the two BN leaders but merely stating a fact that Kuala Besut people have always in favour of Idris compared with Ahmad Said, adding he also wanted to reduce the menteri besar's influence in the state.

PAS Kuala Krai MP Dr Hatta Ramli also urged the Kuala Besut people to vote for the party and force BN to name a menteri besar from the area, where all the representatives are from BN.

In a press conference in Kuala Besut today, Idris denied there was a rift between him and Ahmad Said. "We are okay. We are on good terms," said Idris.

BN won 17 of the 32 state seats in the 13th General Election while Pakatan Rakyat obtained 15 (PAS, 14 and PKR, 1).

Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abd Rahman is going against businessman Azlan in a straight fight contest for Kuala Besut state seat, which became vacant after the death of its assemblyman Dr A. Rahman Mokhtar on June 26.

Kuala Besut is seen as a BN stronghold and the ruling coalition swiped all four state seats in Besut including its parliamentary seat in the May 5 general elections.

There are 17,679 registered voters in Kuala Besut constituency. - July 13, 2013.

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