

**Kuala Besut Voters To Decide Wednesday  
Bernama  
23 July, 2013**

KUALA BESUT, July 23 (Bernama) -- Come Wednesday, 16,534 voters here will make a beeline to polling stations to pick the candidate of their choice in the Kuala Besut state by-election.

With the 12-day campaign period coming to close at 11.59pm tonight, the voters are already armed with ample knowledge to cast a vote for the candidate to succeed incumbent Dr A. Rahman Mokhtar of the Barisan Nasional (BN) who died of lung cancer on June 26.

BN's Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abd Rahman, 37, a civil engineer with the Drainage and Irrigation Department, is pitted against PAS' Endot alias Azlan Yusof, 48, a contractor.

Tengku Zaihan was introduced as BN candidate at the launch the BN machinery with the slogan "Kuala Besut Bluer Than Ever" by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at Dataran Kuala Besut in the afternoon on July 9 while Azlan's candidature was announced by PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang in Kampung Nail in the evening.

Tengku Zaihan will be voting at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Besut 2 while Azlan at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Baharu.

The tussle for Kuala Besut will be a repeat of the 1979 by-election in the constituency when the BN and PAS were involved in a straight fight during Ramadan following the death of incumbent assemblyman Zakaria Muda on June 26, 1979, coincidentally the same date Dr. A. Rahman passed away.

As the majority of voters in Kuala Besut are Muslims, both parties tailored their campaign to suit the holiest month of Ramadan - a period of prayers, fasting, charity-giving and self-accountability - by having ceramah on a smaller scale and holding more religious events.

For Tengku Zaihan, who is identified with an affable slogan "Abe Ku, Ore Mudo Mudoh Baso Sene Kiro", he met with voters in at least 10 events, apart from visiting them from house to house.

"I am thankful I had served as an engineer in the Besut District before. So, I am not out of place when meeting the voters. I am grateful that I've got full cooperation from the party's machinery," he added.

Apart from Muhyiddin, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said and Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh also went down to the ground to meet the voters.

BN's former Kuala Besut assemblyman Datuk Wan Zakaria Wan Abdul Rahman, who wrested the seat in the 1979 by-election, said the BN capitalised on its experience in winning the seat during Ramadan 34 years ago by reducing public gatherings and striving to meet as many voters as it could.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said BN and PAS machineries were clearly more cautious in canvassing for votes by trying to reach out

to as many voters as possible.

"The party that managed to reach out to voters will certainly have the edge," he added.

On the other hand, Azlan, who is fondly known as Che Long, was given a gag order by PAS after he made a blunder, which went viral, by saying that he would engage personal assistants to look after the constituency if he were to win the seat as he would be busy conducting his business, mostly in Kelantan.

For the BN, a victory in Kuala Besut will ensure that it will continue to hold the reins in Terengganu. Otherwise, both Pakatan and the BN will be tied with 16 seats, thus culminating a hung state assembly which PAS is after.

In the 13th general election on May 5, Dr A. Rahman won the seat with a 2,434-vote majority by beating Napisah Ismail of PAS.

Eight polling stations will be open Wednesday involving 35 polling streams from 8 am to 5 pm except for in Pulau Perhentian which will be closed at 3pm.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=965552>