

BN wins Kuala Besut with slightly increased majority
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Barisan Nasional (BN) maintained its hold on the Terengganu government when its candidate retained the Kuala Besut state seat with a slightly increased majority.

Tengku Zaihan Che Ku Abd Rahman of BN polled 8,288 while PAS candidate Azlan Yusof received 5,696 votes. There were 125 spoilt votes.

This gave the BN a 2,592-vote majority. That is an increase of 158 votes from the 2,434 majority achieved by the late Dr A Rahman Mokhtar in the May 5 polls.

Returning officer A. Rahim Jusoh's announcement at the Besut district council hall after the Terawih prayer was received with thunderous cheers from the BN faithful.

With Zaihan's win, the status quo in the 32 seat assembly remained with BN having 17 seats and Pakatan Rakyat 15.

The 12-day campaign saw bigwigs from both sides leveling a variety of accusations against each other despite pledging to be civil and not taint the sanctity of Ramadan.

Tengku Zaihan and Azlan, however, remained true to the pledge throughout the campaign period and remained civil.

Despite its confidence in retaining the seat, the BN did not take it easy and rolled out its top leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, to campaign.

The PAS, despite its hardwork, could not match the financial patronage which the BN could dish out owing to its incumbency in the state and the federal government.

In the 12-day campaign it pledged close to half a billion ringgit in development projects to voters.

The Islamist party tried to play the money game and on the eve of the by-election treated thousands of motorcyclists in the constituency to "free petrol".

It went down well but it did not amount to much in the end. Voters went with BN. – July 24, 2013.

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