

**Good Chance For BN To Capture Sungai Limau State Seat - Shafie
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SEMPORNA, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal is confident that Barisan Nasional (BN) has a good chance of wresting the Sungai Limau state seat in Kedah through the strategies used for the upcoming by-election.

Also, he said, the number of votes received by opposition party, PAS, for the seat in the 2008 and 2013 general elections, showed a downward trend.

"But the important factor for us (BN), is the solid unity of our election machinery. I am confident the people can accept the candidate we will be fielding for the by-election.

"If we look carefully, the opposition has done nothing for the area since winning the seat.

"In fact, it was the previous state government (before Kedah was ruled by PAS) and the federal government that had assisted the local community in various aspects."

Shafie said this after observing the proceedings of the delegates' meetings and elections of the three wings (Wanita, Youth and Puteri) in the Semporna Umno division, here, Saturday. According to Shafie, he had been appointed to chair the federal machinery coordination committee involving several ministries to look into the needs of Sungai Limau residents to facilitate channelling of assistance to them.

"Considering that Sungai Limau is a rural area, with many villages and agriculture being the mainstay, government aid given will be in line with the wants and needs of the local community," he said.

On the 2014 Budget, Shafie hoped that his ministry which is responsible for the wellbeing of rural folk, would get due attention from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also Finance Minister, as they still yearn for development.

He said efforts to balance rural development and urban development through the provision of basic facilities like roads and electricity and water supply needed to continue in order to raise the rural people's standard of living.

"In future, we will carry out entrepreneurial development programmes alongside the provision of basic facilities to boost the rural community's economy," he added.

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