

Muhyiddin's sacking will not benefit opposition, says research centre
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Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's sacking will not result in swing votes for the opposition, independent research firm Ilham Centre said.

"Even if there were to be, it would be mere protests confined to specific locations," the firm's head Hisomudin Bakar said.

"You can't expect too much from the Malay voters. Hard to change, lazy to think, comfortable with what they have, race-based rhetoric.

"Chinese are the biggest threats; this is the formula used by Umno/Barisan Nasional (BN) to continue staying in power," he said in a statement today.

He added, however, that the real threat to the powers-that-be would be the young Malay voters, who were exposed to social media and Internet portals.

"The fight is in this segment. This segment is very fragile.

"A majority from this group of voters will be the deciding factor in the next general election."

Hisomudin said based on Ilham Centre's experience in the study of politics, Malay voters were unique in that it was difficult for them to make political changes.

He said their unique traits included choosing political affiliation based on political parties, something which has been handed down through the generations.

"If there are any young people who have differences in opinion, they choose to keep it to themselves.

"Decision-making based on the strength of the candidate and issues is minimal.

"Malay voters tend to be too simplistic and have a single track mindset."

He also said that they also did not like to think of complex issues, or deal with big numbers in the millions or billions, adding that they did not understand such issues.

Their locality, often in the interior, and distance from primary sources of information, gave Umno an added advantage, Hisomudin said.

Which is why, he added, the majority of the parliamentary seats in the interior belong to Umno/BN.

Hisomudin also said the Malays in the interior were prone to believe in information given by the ruling government.

"They depend on the mainstream media like TV3 and Utusan for information and this shapes their attitude and political stand.

"They are also oblivious to national issues. Even if they were affected, it is only temporary because they are angry or emotional. That's when there is the possibility of sabotage in Umno and BN, but it will still be localised and temporary.

"Time will reduce the tense situation and in the end, support will return as in the past."

Malay voters are also easily influenced by race sentiments, especially with the Chinese and Indians, he added.

"The Chinese are seen as a threat to Malay supremacy, they are fighting for power. The Malays will be neglected in their own land.

"The Indians are the minority, they act as thugs and are immigrants. It is easy for Umno/BN to capitalise on these racist elements."

Hisomudin added that besides race, religious issues and sentiments were also factors that hindered a change in the voting patterns.

To the majority of Malays, although Umno was seen as nationalists who were less Islamic, the party, nevertheless, was viewed as a better bet than the opposition in safeguarding Islam.

"The senior citizens and mothers will also continue to be a safe vote bank for Umno/BN," he said. – July 30, 2015.

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