

Hard for BN to replace Paya Besar MP, says PPBM

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PETALING JAYA: Pahang PPBM has dismissed speculation that Barisan Nasional (BN) has a better chance of retaining the Paya Besar seat following the death of its incumbent Abdul Manan Ismail.

Manan, who became Paya Besar MP in the 12th general election (GE12), died at his home in Taman Melawati on Feb 12 after falling in the bathroom. He was 70 years old.

Pahang PPBM leader Wan Mohd Shahrir Abdul Jalil, however, doubts that Manan's death would translate into sympathy votes for BN.

Speaking to FMT, Shahrir said Manan had served Paya Besar well, and that it would be hard for BN to find a replacement.

"Whoever BN chooses to replace Manan in Paya Besar is not going to be able to match him. The voters will know that and so Manan's passing will actually work in the opposition's favour."

BN has held Paya Besar since the constituency was first created for GE9 in 1995, when Siti Zaharah Sulaiman won the seat with a whopping 74% of the votes against Semangat 46's Wan Abdul Rahman Wan Yusoff.

Manan took over from Siti Zaharah in GE12 after she sustained a serious injury in an accident in 2005.

Manan managed to defend the seat for BN in GE12 and GE13, although in GE13 he won with a slightly lower majority. This was likely due to the three-cornered fight for the seat with the participation of independent candidate Zahari Mamat.

It was the first time Paya Besar had seen a three-cornered battle, and Zahari did not do well.

PPBM is slated to contest in Paya Besar in GE14.

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