

# Good chance to take Manik Urai, says Ahmad

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**KUALA KRAI:** The chances of Barisan Nasional securing a win in the Manik Urai by-election are good as the seat is not a Pas stronghold as touted by the party, said Umno information chief Ahmad Maslan.

The deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department said history showed that BN had won the seat twice before, in 1978 and 2004.

"We made several visits there. We see voters are ready for a change.

"This is not strange, BN also won the Pengkalan Pasir state by-election in Pasir Mas in 2005 despite Pas claiming it was their stronghold," he said here yesterday.

Ahmad said this after presenting food aid to the poor at Sekolah Kebangsaan Lela Jasa in Sungai Rek, near Manik Urai.

The by-election is being held following the death of Pas five-term state assemblyman Ismail Yaacob at Raja Perempuan Zainab II hospital in Kota Baru on Friday.

Ismail, one of the longest-



Umno information chief Ahmad Maslan says Manik Urai is not a Pas stronghold

serving Pas elected representatives in the state, first won the seat in the 1985 general election but did not contest in 2004 when BN's Zulkepli

Omar won it by a 53-vote majority, defeating Mohd Zamzuri Mat Lazim of Pas.

However, Ismail recaptured the seat in the 2008 polls, defeating Zulkepli by a 1,352-vote majority.

The Election Commission will decide today the nomination and polling dates.

On BN's election strategy, Ahmad said the coalition would focus on house visits as it was more suitable and effective in the area.

"Ceramah will continue to be held.

"But it is also important to go down and meet the people, get closer to them and learn about their problems."

Ahmad also said the South Kelantan Development Authority (Kesedar) played an important role in the area by bringing in basic infrastructure for the people.

"We want to know what the state government has brought to the place after all these years in power.

"Voters in the constituency should know that the Federal Government is capable of bringing development to the area."