

Chini rep says will deliver on promises in stages

PEKAN: After securing a thumping victory in the Chini by-election on Saturday, newly elected assemblyman Mohd Sharim Md Zain, 41, is ready to walk the talk.

He said the promises made to the constituents during the 14-day campaign would be fulfilled with cooperation from both the state and federal governments.

"The pledges I made to help the people in this constituency will be implemented in stages.

"I will listen to the people's voices, including Felda youths, and engage them in discussions and to prepare the necessary paperwork to be brought to the state government," he said after having breakfast with a group of settlers at Felda Chini 3 here on Saturday.

Sharim said having served as an aide to his predecessor Datuk Seri Abu Bakar Harun would certainly help when it came to dealing with the constituents.

"Many people recognised me since the days I worked with him

(Abu Bakar), so now it is my duty to continue his good work in Chini."

Independent candidate Mohd Shukri Mohd Ramli said he had failed in his mission to save the environment in Chini as the voters had decided to give their mandate to a candidate who represented a political party.

"However, my defeat does not mean that I will stay away from championing environmental issues. I will return to Chini to monitor whether Barisan Nasional keeps its promises to the people here."

Umno Youth chief Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki described Sharim as a young leader who had gained experience serving the people during his days as an aide to Abu Bakar.

"It would have been pointless for the party to pick a young candidate based on age, but the person does not understand the people's needs on the ground.

"The chosen candidate has to

be someone who understands the people's sentiments and puts himself in their shoes.

"Sharim is known among the Felda settlers, villagers and the Orang Asli community in the constituency.

"He has the experience and is not someone new. So this is the contributing factor which led to his victory."

Universiti Putra Malaysia political analyst Associate Professor Dr Anuar Shah Bali Mahomed said BN's victory was a sign that voters had no problem with young candidates serving as their elected representatives.

"If the candidate meets the requirements and is well-liked, then why not?

"People surely want more young leaders to gain exposure and go on to become future leaders in the country."

Anuar also said it would be an uphill task for Pakatan Harapan Plus to secure the support in Malay-majority areas as voters



Newly-elected Chini assemblyman Mohd Sharim Md Zain (second from left) meeting with residents in Pekan yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

would throw their support behind Perikatan Nasional if the 15th General Election was held anytime soon.

"Chini has a population of 90.4

per cent Malay voters, and they have chosen to support the PN government under Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin," he said.