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Ramli-Election

BN CONFIDENT OF BIG MAJORITY IN TELUK INTAN BY-ELECTION

TELUK INTAN, April 27 (Bernama) -- The Perak Barisan Nasional is confident of a big majority in the Teluk Intan Parliamentary by-election on May 17 if all component party members work together, its Chairman and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said.

He said the BN's majority in Teluk Intan had been increasing at successive elections -- in 1982, it was 832 votes, it grew to 1,443 votes in 1986; 2,111 votes in 1990 and 13,968 votes in the last election in 1995.

He was speaking to reporters after briefing more than 200 BN workers here last night.

The seat fell vacant after the death of Ong Tin Kim on April 10.

The Election Commission has fixed May 6 for nomination and if there is a contest polling will be on May 17.

DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang had earlier announced that his party would contest the by-election.

Ramli, who is the BN director of operations for the by-election, cautioned component parties against creating any internal tension or issues which could deharmonise the BN and affect its performance.

Although there was not much of a challenge from the opposition parties, internal problems could cause the BN to lose the seat and hence solidarity among the group was much needed, he added.

" The winning of the seat depends on how effective the party's machinery is in its campaign and the BN should not feel over confident that it can secure the seat without much effort," he said.

He urged the BN election machinery to go all out to woo those voters who did not belong to any political party since they were the ones who would determine the position of the BN in Teluk Intan.

Ramli said BN President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would announce the name of the BN candidate before nomination day. -- BERNAMA

LAT AAM