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Gerakan-Candidate

GERAKAN CANDIDATE CHOSEN FOR SUNGAI BAKAP BY-ELECTION

BERUAS, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- The Gerakan has chosen its candidate to be fielded in the by-election in Sungai Bakap, Pulau Pinang, said its president, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Kheng Yaik.

He said that the candidate was chosen by the party's central working committee yesterday and his name would be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as BN chairman for his approval.

Speaking to reporters after attending a meet-the-people session at Kampung Paya Lima here yesterday afternoon, Lim said that he would leave for an overseas trip today and as such Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, the state BN chairman, would meet Dr Mahathir on the matter.

The seat fell vacant following the death of the BN's Ooi Theng Bok in an accident at the North-South highway on Sept 24. The Election Commission has set Oct 29 as nomination day and in the event of a contest, polling has been fixed for Nov 8.

Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said that the BN could face a tough fight as the DAP and PAS may be contesting to take advantage of the fall of the ringgit and the haze problem to fish for votes.

However, he said that there was no reason for the BN not to win the seat as several opposition leaders including Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat and DAP chairman Chen Man Hin had expressed support for Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"If opposition leaders can give their support to the Prime Minister, why not the voters in Sungai Bakap, as this is the time for the people to prove their support," he said.

Lim said that the Gerakan would also assist the BN candidate to be fielded to contest in the by-election in Changkat Jering, Perak, to be held simultaneously with the Sungai Bakap by-election. -- BERNAMA

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