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Gerakan: DAP's call shows its insincerity

BRUAS, Sun. - Gerakan has described DAP's call for a debate on the alleged "Barisan Nasional single issue campaign" in the Sungai Bakap by-election in Penang as unbecoming of an opposition party in the country.

Its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said he questioned the sincerity of the DAP in calling for the debate and said that DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang was making wild accusations in calling the measures taken by the BN Government a "single issue campaign" for the by-election.

Dr Lim said as the country was going through an economic and currency crisis as a result of foreign market manipulation, the people must be united and support the measures taken by the Government to help restore the situation.

"No doubt the measures by the Government, such as asking the people to discipline themselves and tighten their belts, are not well received, but without unity and support, the recovery will take a long time.

"The Government cannot do it alone, it needs the help of the people."

Dr Lim was speaking to reporters after visiting the Kampung Changkat Keruing recreational village yesterday evening, about 30km from here.

Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said on Thursday that BN was not making the Sungai Bakap by-election "a single-issue" campaign when the coalition had urged the people to vote BN as a show of support and confidence for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

DAP had said that BN was turning the by-election into a vote of confidence for Dr Mahathir.

Dr Lim appealed to the people not to be hoodwinked by such tactics and said that DAP's wild accusation only showed its arrogance.

He said the issues brought up by DAP for its campaign were old issues and that the Opposition would always "fish in troubled waters" by using personal attacks and character assassination on the candidate.

"The BN Government is fighting hard to control inflation and the increase in the prices of goods.

"This is clearly evident in the toll issue when Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said the Government would negotiate with the concessionaire so that the increase in the toll charges would not be a burden to the people," he said.

Barisan Nasional candidate Lai Chew Hock is facing a four-cornered fight in Sungai Bakap with DAP's Goh Kheng Huat and two independent candidates, Abu Harith Ahmad and K. Ganesh on Nov 8.

The by-election is called following the death of its State Assemblyman Ooi Theng Bok on Sept 23.

(END)