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Lim-Election

MALAYSIANS COUNTING ON SUNGAI BAKAP BY-ELECTION, SAYS KENG YAIK

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The multi-racial people in Malaysia are counting on Sungai Bakap by-election in Pulau Pinang to show that Malaysians are indeed united in facing the current problems in the country.

Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said as the constituents in Sungai Bakap were of mixed races, they must show that they really stand united in facing problems such as the haze, currency depreciation, share market crash, inflation and the rising cost of essential goods which are governed by external forces.

"We have to face this together as Malaysians. This is where Sungai Bakap by-election is important, to show on behalf of the people in the country and to response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call that they must not panic, stay united and be disciplined in facing these challenges," he said.

Dr Lim, who is speaking to reporters at Gerakan Deepavali open house here, said he was disappointed that the opposition parties which had pledged support to Dr Mahathir in facing these problems were using them as issues in the by-election.

"I question the sincerity of the opposition especially the DAP and PAS, where in the parliament they voiced their support for the Prime Minister but here in Sungai Bakap the DAP is playing with issues which we know originated from outside the country and this can affect the people's economy," he said.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) is involved in a four-cornered fight in the by-election where its candidate Lai Chew Hock, 33, who is Pulau Pinang Gerakan Youth vice-chairman, is challenged by Goh Kheng Huat, 34, of the DAP and two independents, K. Ganesh, 44, and Abu Harith Ahmad, 40.

The by-election is being held following the death of BN's Ooi Theng Bok in a road accident on Sept 23.

Dr Lim said issues like haze was played by the DAP where all knew that the problem came from elsewhere and Malaysia had taken steps to deal with it.

He said the world knew of speculative attacks on local currency by certain groups bent on reaping profit.

"Now bourses in Europe and the United states fell following the attack on Hong Kong, Taiwan and Asean countries.

"It is a global problem created by greedy profiteers and we are doing our best to fight it," he said.

He said the currency depreciation would import inflation into the country since Malaysia did not produce all the essential items needed like wheat flour and meat.

Dr Lim said the DAP should refrain from harping on issues to confuse voters. -- BERNAMA

AFY ZUL ABG