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Gerakan-Resignation

TWO GERAKAN ASSEMBLYMEN RESIGN FROM PARTY

PULAU PINANG, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- Two Gerakan state assemblymen, Lim Boo Chang and Lim Chien Aun, today resigned from the party saying they were dissatisfied with its leadership.

Boo Chang and Chien Aun, who successfully defended the Datuk Keramat and Bayan Lepas seats in Pulau Pinang in the just concluded general election, said they would carry on serving their constituents as Independents.

In a statement issued here, they said they submitted their resignation letters to party president Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik today.

They said they were dissatisfied with the Gerakan leadership and questioned the capability of the party's leadership in Pulau Pinang to bring development to the state and contribute to the country's political developments.

"We are not convinced that there would be development or changes in the future and we therefore submitted our resignation letter," they said.

Boo Chang, a lawyer and Chen Aun, the son of former Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tun Lim Chong Eu, were aligned to Gerakan vice-president Dr Goh Cheng Teik when Dr Goh challenged Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon for the state Gerakan leadership in May.

Dr Goh was not re-nominated as the Barisan Nasional candidate for the Nibong Tebal parliamentary seat in the just concluded general election.

"As the public knows full well, the recent election result have not satisfied the many criticism levelled against the government in Penang which had principally been led by the present leaders of the party.

"This is because many other more important national issues prevailed in the decision of the voter to vote for the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Our decision to resign from the party will show to the public our support of their criticisms and our intention to ensure that there will be development in Penang," said Boo Chang and Chien Aun.

They said they were returned as assemblymen due to the endorsement by the electorate of the BN under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

"Our decision to resign from the party will not alter our support and respect for the BN and the leadership of the prime minister," they said.

Meanwhile, Dr Koh's press secretary Zsman Asna said the state Gerakan chief would only comment about the resignations tomorrow.

Dr Koh, who is also a vice-president of Gerakan, has been the chief minister of Pulau Pinang since 1990.

About 200 Gerakan members held a meeting at a hotel here tonight to express support for Boo Chang and Chien Aun.

Among those present were former state Gerakan chief Datuk Tan Gim Hwa and two party founding members Datuk Lim Ee Heong (who is Boo Chang's father) and Datuk Oon Chin Seang.

Tan told reporters later that they all planned to leave the party as well.

He said the BN leadership should take note of the alleged unpopularity of the the state BN and Gerakan leadership.

"What I mean is the state government not the assemblymen. The state government has to change and we hope the message goes to the national BN leadership," he said.

Tan said they would remain loyal supporters of the BN but had no plans

of joining the MCA.

Tan claimed that another 2,000 Gerakan members in Pulau Pinang would quit the part in support of Boo Chang and Chien Aun esok.

Meanwhile Tan's son, Tan Tee Beng, who was defeated in the Batu Lanchang state constituency by a DAP candidate, said he too planned to leave Gerakan.

He said he would resign from all party posts and also as a member of the Pulau Pinang Municipal Council. He claimed that he wanted to leave the party even before the general election but did not do so to avoid a political crisis then.

Asked on his future plans, he said he needed time to think about them but was certain that he would not join the DAP.

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