

19/12/2002

BN task forces set up in Datuk Keramat and Jawi

PENANG, Wed. - Two task forces have been set up in the Datuk Keramat and Jawi constituencies following the suspension of State Assemblymen Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi) by the MCA presidential council on Monday.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today the task forces were formed as there is now no Barisan Nasional assemblymen in the two constituencies.

He said Jelutong Member of Parliament Lee Kah Choon is heading the task force in Datuk Keramat, while Sungai Acheh Assemblyman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdullah is in charge of the Jawi constituency.

"Actually, over the last two years we have a task force under Gerakan for Datuk Keramat, but I believe other component parties such as Umno, the MIC and the MCA have also contributed to the constituency", he said after opening an annual civil servants gathering in conjunction with Quality Day in Komtar here.

Koh, who is also State BN chairman, said he was appointed Nibong Tebal BN chairman by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in August, last year, as there was no BN Member of Parliament in Nibong Tebal.

"It was only appropriate for me to head the Nibong Tebal constituency because the post had always been held by a Gerakan leader.

"Since there is no official BN Assemblyman in Jawi, all work will be handled by Abdul Rashid and Lee will be in charge in Datuk Keramat," he said.

Lim and Tan, when contacted, declined to comment on the matter.

The two suspended MCA members who are now Independent assemblymen, became the target of criticism from fellow BN component parties after they abstained from voting against a DAP motion to defer the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road project.