

09 MAR 2002  
Ketari-Candidate  
BN TO NAME KETARI CANDIDATE ON WEDNESDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for the Ketari state by-election will be announced by Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is the state BN chairman, on Wednesday.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today that the announcement would be made after the candidate's name had been submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is BN chairman.

"The Gerakan Central Working Committee (CWC) will meet again tomorrow to determine the candidate before forwarding the name to the Pahang Menteri Besar for discussion on Monday afternoon," he told reporters after chairing the CWC meeting at Menara PGRM here.

Dr Lim said the Bentong Gerakan division had submitted four names for the CWC to pick the candidate.

They are Ketari Gerakan branch chairman Yum Ah Ha, 51, a lawyer; Perting branch deputy chairman Dr Ng Kong Chai, 42, a dentist; Bandar Karak branch chairman Leong Yen Kong, 60, a Commissioner of Oaths; and Sungai Dua branch chairman Leong Ah Khuan, 46, a logging operator.

Dr Lim said the CWC would also consider the views of people who had written letters to the party about its candidate for the by-election.

"All views will be taken seriously. This shows that people there are interested on who will be chosen as the candidate," he said.

He said there was also a request from the Kongsai Association (which represents a Chinese clan who forms the majority of the Chinese in Bentong) which wanted a candidate from its clan.

Dr Lim said he was satisfied with the level of cooperation among the BN component parties, which have been proactive, offering and pledging support to Gerakan.

He also said there would not be many local issues since most of the local problems have been solved by the Pahang Menteri Besar.

Dr Lim also said Gerakan had set up an Election Committee for Ketari, which is headed by him.

"We will set up five centres and operations rooms in the voting districts of Genting Highlands, Bukit Tinggi, Perting, Ketari and Sungai Dua," he said.

The Gerakan operations rooms would liaise closely with those set up by the MCA, MIC and Umno, he said.

He said the Election Committee in the five voting districts would be activated in three days' time.

The Ketari seat fell vacant following the death of its assemblyman Datuk Loke Koon Kam of the BN on March 3. The Election Commission has yet to fix a date for the by-election.

-- BERNAMA  
AT MFJ YBY