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Ketari-sympathy

DON'T GIVE SYMPATHY VOTES, KETARI VOTERS TOLD

BENTONG, March 10 (Bernama) -- The opposition in particular the DAP would try to gain sympathy from voters in a bid to wrest the Ketari state from the Barisan Nasional (BN) in a by-election to be held soon.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said voters in Ketari should not vote for a party banking only sympathy to win but to vote for instead a candidate who could serve them effectively.

"This is important because part of Ketari is a rural area and it will need various development projects to improve the standard of living of the people," he told reporters here today.

Dr Lim said the opposition was expected to try to gain sympathy of the voters after having failed twice in their bid to win the seat in 1995 and 1999.

Last Friday, Pahang DAP secretary Leong Ngah Ngah reportedly expressed confidence of winning the next by-election although its potential candidate Choong Siew Onn, 34, a factory supervisor, was defeated twice in the constituency.

Leong's optimism is based on the belief that if two earlier attempts fail, the third one will be successful.

Pahang DAP has proposed that Choong be nominated again to contest for the seat which fell vacant following the death of its assemblyman Datuk Loke Koon Kam on March 3.

In the 1995 general election, Loke beat Choong with a 2,900-vote majority and in the 1999 general election he again defeated Choong but with a slim majority of 231 votes.

Earlier after chairing the Pahang Gerakan meeting, Dr Lim said the BN might use the winning formula in the Indera Kayangan state by-election in Perlis for Ketari.

He said he was confident of BN's victory in Ketari although it would not be a safe seat for the coalition front.

"It's not a safe seat...we have to fight with a very strong campaign in order to win," he said.

Dr Lim said that judging by the enthusiasm shown by party members in Pahang and elsewhere as well as the cooperation among BN component parties, victory was possible.

On potential candidates for the state seat, he said no new name was added to the list of four potential candidates comprising Yam Ah Ha, 51, lawyer and Ketari branch chief, Dr Ng Keong Chye, 42, Perting branch deputy chief, Leong Weng Kong, 60, commissioner of oath and Bandar Karak branch chief and Leong Ah Kwan, 46, timber merchant and Sungai Dua branch chief.

"Those who are not in the list, don't lose heart yet. I have more than four lists but I have to leave it to the central working committee to decide.

"Most likely I will present only two names to BN Chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob as the Pahang BN chairman," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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