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ELECTION: VOTE FIRST BEFORE WATCHING F1 RACE, SAYS CHAN

KUALA LUMPUR, March 19 (Bernama) -- Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy today reminded voters to perform their responsibility by casting their votes on polling day before proceeding to watch the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix this Sunday,

"I urge voters who are F1 fans to vote first. After that, you are all clear to watch the race," he told reporters when visiting the Flood Mitigation Project in Kampung Kepong Ulu here today.

The Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix which is the second leg of the 2004 Formula One Championship season is held coincidentally with Malaysia's polling day this March 21.

The decision by the Election Commission to fix polling day of the 11th general election on the same day with the race had sparked outrage among die-hard F1 fans who claimed that they may not have the time to cast their votes.

However, Chairman of Sepang International Circuit, Mokhzani Mahathir said F1 fans had ample time to go and vote as the race proper only begins at 3pm. Polling centres nationwide will be opened from 8am to 5pm.

On BN's chances to capture the Kepong Parliamentary seat, Chan who is also MCA Deputy President said the coalition was confident the constituents would give the BN candidate strong support.

"BN has delivered a clear message to the voters that it will continue to champion their rights and we are confident they will give us the benefit of the doubt," said Chan.

For this election, BN has fielded Ma Woei Chyi who will be up against incumbent DAP candidate, Dr Tan Seng Giaw.

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