

MIC: 80% of Indian votes in the bag
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The MIC is confident of attracting over 80 percent of the total 1,780 Indian votes in the Tenang state by-election on Jan 30.

Johor MIC chairperson KS Balakrishnan, who is also the MIC election director for the by-election, said the party's people-friendly approach had been successful in attracting the voters' support.

"Ever since the 2008 general election, the Johor MIC machinery has been moving throughout the state to help the Indian community resolve their problems and this has brought us closer to them," he told Bernama when met during the meet-the-people event at the Labis MIC office, which was also participated by government agencies.

Balakrishnan said the state government, under the leadership of Menteri Besar Abdul Ghani Othman, had been proactively solving problems affecting the community such as those relating to land for temples, infrastructure for Tamil national-type schools, the economy and so on.

Among the agencies involved were the Social Welfare Department, Social Security Organisation, National Registration Department and Tekun.

He cited the relocation of Kampung Veeran villagers in Labis as a fine example of how the government cared for the people.

Fourteen families had to be moved out of the village because the land they occupied was acquired by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) for the double tracking project.

The menteri besar, in his visit to Labis two months ago, said Balakrishnan, had promised to solve the matter by providing replacement lots for them.

"Today, all the 14 families have handed over documents to the district land office for the replacement lots. This means a lot to the families," he said.

Johor MIC executive secretary A Asojan said the event today received tremendous response from the local Indian community, with over 400 people turning up to convey their problems.

The Johor MIC, he said, had carried out similar programme at Ladang Voules, Labis on Jan 3 which was also well attended.

The Tenang by-election is called following the death of Sulaiman Taha of Barisan Nasional on Dec 17. The nomination day is on Jan 22.

- Bernama