

Gerakan can win back Penang, says party vice-president
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PETALING JAYA - Gerakan national vice-president Mah Siew Keong (*left*) said Wednesday the party is "still the best party" to lead the Barisan Nasional coalition in Penang in the next general election.

Mah said Gerakan has never given up aspirations to recapture Penang.

"We have achieved tremendous success for Barisan, especially in leading the Penang state government after so many general elections until 2008. The record speaks for itself," said Mah in a press statement.

He was responding to National Umno Youth Information chief Reezal Merican Naina Merican and Penang Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Zainol Abidin Osman's statements that Gerakan should allow Umno or other Barisan component parties to lead the coalition in Penang.

On Tuesday, Reezal Merican and Zainol Abidin had commented on a recent online article quoting state Gerakan chief Dr Teng Hock Nan saying that Barisan would not be able to win back the state in the next general election.

"For the past 26 years, Gerakan has done a good job leading but now it seems the driver is indicating he can no longer deliver so why not let another take over?"

"Umno is not trying to snare the chairmanship from Gerakan but the party must show that it is still willing and able to fight," said Reezal Merican.

Mah said that Dr Teng's intention should not be misunderstood when he made that statement.

"I believe that Dr Teng's intention was to convince Gerakan members that they must work harder for the next general election.

"It cannot be denied that the situation in Penang is not favourable at the moment and we need to have co-operation from everybody in Gerakan and Barisan, as well as work out strategies to win," he said.

"We must be realistic on our weaknesses. We cannot bluff ourselves that the situation is so good now. However, if we work hard, then Barisan will have a good chance," added Mah.

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