

**Don't Give Up Hope In Getting Chinese Community To Support BN**  
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BERA -- Umno leaders and members have been urged not to give up hope on getting close to the Chinese community so as to ensure their support for Barisan Nasional (BN) in the 13th general election (GE).

Umno Supreme Council member Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the results of the recent Sarawak state election should not be used as a yardstick and the reason for Umno members to be disappointed and not get close to the Chinese community.

"We cannot feel or act this way as not all the Chinese do not support BN, but many still do," he said after opening a "Jalanan Rakyat" programme at the Bera Umno Hall, here, yesterday.

He was commenting on the call by Prime Minister and BN chairman Najib Tun Razak for the Chinese community to make a choice; whether to support MCA in the next general election or lose their representatives in government.

According to Najib, the Chinese community have been given a clear message by MCA that the party would not be accepting any post in the federal government if it fails to win the support of the Chinese community in the 13th GE.

Ismail Sabri, who is also Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister, said all elected representatives should solve the problems faced by the Chinese community in their respective areas before the 13th GE.

"The attitude of the Chinese in the peninsula is different from that in Sarawak, where as if they are not supportive of BN, hence we need to get close to them.

"In Bera, for instance, BN had won seats where the majority of the voters are Chinese, like Kampung Mengkarak Station, Kampung Menteri and Kampung Kemayan," he said.

Ismail Sabri also urged the Chinese community in the peninsula to learn lessons from the outcome of the Sarawak state election where they had now lost many representatives in the state government.

In KOTA BAHARU, Kelantan Umno Youth has expressed support for Najib's calling on the Chinese community to make the choice of whether to support MCA in the next general election or lose representation in government.

Its secretary Bazlan Baharuddin said this was necessary as the cooperation forged since 54 years ago needed the support of all the communities, especially the Chinese.

"However, if there's a small group of Chinese who don't want unity with BN, we can't do anything. For us, what was said by the prime minister was clear, that Umno wants power sharing among the various communities to remain," he told Bernama.

Bazlan said what Najib hoped was for the Chinese community to remain with BN.

In MUAR, Wanita Umno chief Shahrizat Abdul Jalil urged BN component parties and

specifically the wing not to give up hope of regaining Chinese support of the next general election.

Shahrizat, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said she was confident that Chinese voters would return to the BN fold.

She said this when closing Bakri Wanita Umno delegates meeting here.

(Bernama)

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