

Umno to strengthen 'weak areas'

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Focus on marginal votes constituencies

PENANG: Umno has identified 80 constituencies where the party won with marginal votes in the last general election and is working hard to win over the people there, said its information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

He said the party was focusing on strengthening the weak areas, adding that the constituencies were those that the party had won by a majority of only 200 to 300 votes in the last election.

He added that the party, which has started preparations for the next

general election, was focusing its machinery on such areas under a special programme called *gerakan tumpu*.

"In the past one year, the party has doubled its work with the aim of getting better support and rectifying weaknesses, if any," he told reporters after launching the Balik Pulau Umno family gathering yesterday.

"I have just returned from one such constituency in Terengganu and am getting a better reaction from the grassroots," he added.

On the collaboration of opposition parties to capture Penang in the next election, he was confident that Penangites could differentiate between "rhetoric and practicality."

"The state has been awarded huge development projects lately, with the announcement of the Second Link, monorail and the RapidPenang bus service.

"This shows that Barisan Nasional under the administration of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has the interests of the people at heart," he said.

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TAN SRI MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD TAIB



"I do not see any reason why the people would hesitate to support Barisan which walks the talk com-

pared with the opposition which only keeps on condemning," he added.