

**BN Assemblymen's Club Retreat Raises Awareness On Government Efforts**  
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BUKIT GANTANG, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) State Assemblymen's Club Retreat Programme has successfully increased the community's awareness on the government's development efforts, said its chairman Datuk Nadzri Ismail.

Nadzri said through the programme 135 BN assemblymen nationwide were placed in villages in eight parliamentary constituencies in Perak.

"When the people saw the government's earnest efforts and accepted our explanation on government policies, they showed us their support by attending the dinner and official opening of the BN State Assemblymen's Club Retreat last night.

"About 30,000 people were present as a result of the retreat whereby assemblymen forged close ties with residents, so this encouraged the people to attend the event in support," he said, adding that this was their second biggest success after a retreat in Selangor.

Speaking to Bernama here today, Nadzri said the programme was a way for the government to identify problems among the people and how to solve them.

Nadzri, who is also Manjoi assemblyman, said they planned to hold the next retreat in Kedah and Kelantan.

"We feel that there are people in Kedah and Kelantan who are not aware of our initiatives, therefore, are susceptible to being lied to by the opposition for more votes. This retreat will help us rectify this," he said.

Meanwhile, Kampung Gajah assemblyman Datuk Dr Wan Norashikin Wan Noordin described the retreat as an opportunity for representatives to serve their people and learn more about people in other constituencies.

Recounting her experience visiting homes, including those of opposition supporters, Dr Wan Norashikin said although it might be difficult to persuade them to support the government, it did not stop representatives from mingling.

Sungai Tiang assemblyman Suraya Yaacob said the programme was also well received by the residents.

"Different areas will have different political understandings. Therefore, we (assemblymen) receive varying inputs...it's not only the people who enjoy our presence but we too can see the differences between the areas," she said.

She also reminded local leaders not to take small matters such as street lights, tarred roads and carpeting for the surau lightly.

"These issues may seem minor, but our leaders including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak feel that all issues must be given due attention," she said.

The retreat programme in Perak, the second held by the Barisan Nasional (BN) State Assemblymen's Club, was held for three days starting Thursday.

Assemblymen were required to visit 20 homes in each village to identify their problems and share information on the government's ongoing transformation programme.

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