

Penang Pakatan must take Umno threat seriously, says Guan Eng
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GEORGE TOWN, Oct 1 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is taking seriously Umno's 3-3-3-1 threat to recapture Penang, with plans of its own to defend its seats in the state.

Penang PR leader Lim Guan Eng will ask all PR parties to submit full reports on their respective election preparation.

"Umno is confident because they sense complacency amongst PR and they may be correct as our Penang PR machinery is not in full election mode," said Lim, who is also Penang chief minister.

He said it was high time PR viewed Umno's threat to wrest control of the state back in the upcoming polls seriously.

"We should gear up for the polls which could be held in November, even though Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is widely expected to call for elections next year," he said in a press statement today.

Lim was responding to Defence Minister and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's statement that 3-3-3-1 is the formula for Barisan Nasional (BN) to recapture Penang.

"BN only needs to retain its 11 seats and Umno, MCA and Gerakan need to win three additional seats each and MIC one seat to get a majority of one seat for BN to form the Penang state government," Ahmad Zahid said.

He urged BN and the component parties to work harder to win the additional 3-3-3-1 seats to recapture Penang.

In the previous general election, BN won only 11 seats, all by Umno, out of the 40 state assembly seats while the DAP won 19 seats, PKR nine and PAS one.

On Ahmad Zahid's confidence that BN will be able to recapture Penang with this "formula", Lim said this confidence stemmed from BN's control of the mainstream media to spread lies against PR and the control of the Election Commission.

"The manipulation of the EC for BN's own political interests is well-recorded until top officials of EC were recently exposed to be Umno members," he said.

Lim also said BN's control of the media has given BN wide coverage in spreading lies and personal attacks against Penang PR leaders while not highlighting PR's successes in governance.

"The mainstream media continues to spread lies, even when these are statements made by minor underlings of BN Youth parties while replies to these lies by PR are given limited coverage or sometimes not even published at all," he said.

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