

**Majority Of Siamese Community Strong BN Supporters-senator
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TUMPAT, April 13 (Bernama) -- The majority of the Siamese community support Barisan Nasional (BN) and they hope the BN government will continue to rule the country in the 13th general election, said the senator representing the community.

Senator Datuk Boon Som Inong said there were about 80,000 people in the Siamese community in the country with 43,000 of them eligible to vote in the general election.

"It cannot be denied that there is a small number of the Siamese community in Kedah and Kelantan supporting the opposition especially PAS but the majority of the community are strong BN supporters. The Siamese community had long integrated themselves with BN and its struggle," he told Bernama after attending the Songkran celebration and the Kelantan 2013 Water Festival at Wat Sukhontharam, Kampung Kubang Panjang here Friday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his message to the community in conjunction with Songkran Day yesterday said BN must ensure the Siamese community continued to enjoy various special privileges as other Bumiputras if BN were to be given the mandate in the 13th general election.

The Prime Minister hoped the Siamese community would strengthen their resolve to continue contributing to the nation.

Boon said the Siamese community understood and appreciated the contributions by BN especially the privilege to own Malay Reserve land and obtain the best education as other bumiputras for their children.

"The Prime Minister has announced in black and white that the Siamese community are Bumiputras," he said.

He said BN's manifesto for the general election launched by the Prime Minister recently gave due emphasis to all races including the Siamese community and other minority groups.

"The opposition manifesto such as the one in Kedah, however, did not touch on the needs of the Siamese community as most of the pledges were very general, in fact the Siamese community was marginalised," he said.

Boon said the Siamese community should be aware that changing the administration to one that is not efficient will affect the people in the country and therefore it is good to maintain the BN government which has a good track record in administering the country well.

He said the Siamese community should appreciate the peace and security in the country which enabled them to celebrate festivals like Songkran Day in peace and harmony.

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