

**BN Candidate In Kulim Learns About Malay Community Through Novels**  
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KULIM, April 19 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate for Kulim state seat, Chua Thiong Gee, today said that the books authored by novelist Azizi Abdullah have helped him gain a better understanding of the Malay community.

For Chua, who was born in Kilang Sago here, Azizi's novels provide a lot of precious information about the Malays living in rural areas.

"I felt more attached to the Malay community through his books, which I have read since I was in Form 2," he told Bernama when met at his legal firm here today.

The 41-year-old lawyer said the late novelist was his neighbour since 1981 and he would receive a copy every time Azizi came out with a new novel.

He said when he first read Azizi's masterpiece titled 'Seorang Tua Di Kaki Gunung', he thought the mount, 'Gunung Bongsu', described by the novelist was just a fiction.

"It was when I was appointed as Kulim BN state constituency coordinator in 2008 and spent most of my time visiting the villages around Kulim that I found out that Gunung Bongsu exists in Kulim," he said.

Chua said his experience in meeting with the community over the past four years had also helped him to really understand them.

As such, he said should he win the May 5 polls, he would definitely try to overcome several problems faced by the people in Kulim, including clogged drains and waterways, which had caused flash floods to become rampant in the constituency.

Chua is expected to face Chu Maw Nian, 46, of Parti Keadilan Rakyat in the 13th general election.

Chua, who is Kedah MCA liaison committee vice-chairman, is married to Elaine Lim, 41. They live in Kulim Square here with their two children, 10-year-old Chong Eu and eight-year-old Jia Yi.

Kulim state constituency has 34,404 registered voters, comprising 20,927 Malays (60.8 per cent), 7,656 Chinese (22.3 per cent), 5,608 Indians (16.3 per cent) and 213 others (0.6 per cent).

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