

Pakatan aping BN's candies to civil servants, says MCA man
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 — Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) electoral pledges to civil servants in their bid to wrest Putrajaya from Barisan Nasional (BN) are nothing short of mimicry, the MCA's Tan Sri Fong Chan Onn said today.

The ruling Chinese party's economic bureau chief claimed that Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his PAS ally Datuk Husam Musa had lifted ideas from the BN's bag of "goodies" in their May Day pledges yesterday to the country's 1.4 million bureaucrats.

"At their ceramah in Putrajaya, neither Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim nor Datuk Husam Musa will dare admit that the goodies Pakatan promised to the civil servants are already being implemented or mulled by the Barisan Nasional federal government in efforts to revitalise the public service and enhance good governance," Fong (picture) said in a statement.

The former human resources minister said the three-party PR pact's five offers to the bureaucracy were already done by BN, namely raising the pay for the entire civil force and providing insurance for all servicemen and law enforcers on a RM12 million budget.

He also said the BN was considering cutting down the waiting period for promotions and also plans to extend the tenure for contract or offer "competent" temporary staff permanent positions under its election manifesto.

The prime minister has also promised to build 10,336 subsidised houses priced between RM150,000 and RM300,000 on government land which will be offered only to public sector workers whose monthly household income is below RM8,000, Fong said to counter PR's interest-free housing loan.

"Given the examples above, it is very obvious that Anwar and Musa are good at revving up publicity on their election vows.

"However, these pledges are already firmly being carried out by the existing BN government," he said.

Some 80,000 people live in the federal administrative capital, while 15,798 of them are registered to vote in the Putrajaya parliamentary seat.

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