

Gerakan Vows To Be Constructive Opposition In Penang
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GEORGE TOWN, June 19 (Bernama) -- Gerakan will play a constructive role as an opposition party in Penang, said its acting president Datuk Chang Ko Youn.

"We will be a responsible opposition party. I want to urge them (state Gerakan leaders) to be more active...and make our presence felt," he told a press conference in George Town, Wednesday.

He said the Penang Gerakan leaders should start taking up issues on any perceived weaknesses of the DAP led state government.

Despite the party's massive defeat in the 13th General Election, Chang said the party would work towards regaining the people's support, particularly the Chinese voters.

He added that the party would attract young voters, who were expected to increase significantly in the next general election.

"This is the time for us to make adjustments to accommodate the aspirations of young voters. In the next five years we expect to have about 2.5 million young voters coming in.

"We hope to create a new image, rejuvenate the party and offer a better team for the people to choose especially in Penang," he said.

Chang described the political scenario in the country as unhealthy based on the voting patterns in the May 5 polls.

He said the Chinese support for the Barisan Nasional (BN) showed a decrease of 10 to 20 per cent, in contrast with the Malay and Indian votes which showed a 60 to 70 per cent increase.

Meanwhile, commenting on the resignation of Gerakan secretary-general Teng Chang Yeow as state BN chairman, Chang said he would leave the matter to BN chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

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