

Penang BN Working To Regain Support Of Chinese Voters
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BUKIT MERTAJAM, March 4 (Bernama) -- The Penang Barisan Nasional (BN) is trying to identify areas in the state where it has the potential to regain Chinese voter support for the coalition.

Its chairman, Teng Chang Yeow, said the state MCA and Gerakan would implement a new approach to resolving issues in the effort to regain the trust and support of the Chinese in Penang.

"Complaints against the Pakatan Rakyat (opposition pact) are beginning to be heard among the Chinese community in the state. The point now is how we can change these grievances to votes.

"This is a challenge for the MCA and Gerakan," he told a press conference after chairing a meeting of the state BN at Wisma Transformasi Umno here last night.

According to Teng, the two component parties were still in the process of collecting data to monitor the percentage of Chinese voters who would switch their support to the BN.

Teng said the party was now focusing on a new multimedia campaign, especially in the face of a possible by-election in the Permatang Pauh parliamentary constituency.

"We're not sure when the Permatang Pauh by-election will be held because of the application for a royal pardon (for the incumbent Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim). However, we have to be prepared should a by-election be called.

"If the seat is not declared vacant in the near future, we will consider preparations for the 14th General Election," he said.

Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and their daughters, Nurul Izzah and Nurul Nuha, have filed for a royal pardon for Anwar from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Anwar is serving a five-year jail term at the Sungai Buloh prison after the Federal Court, on Feb 10, dismissed his appeal and upheld the conviction and sentence imposed by the Court of Appeal for sodomising his former personal aide, Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan, in 2008.

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