

MCA Wants To Wrest Back Nine State Seats In Johor
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JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- The return of some Chinese voters' support for Barisan Nasional (BN) of late has given MCA the confidence to wrest back nine state seats in Johor which it lost in the 13th general election (GE13) last year.

MCA deputy president Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said MCA would strengthen its machinery to also defend two state seats in Johor - Paloh and Pulai Sebatang - which it won in GE13.

"The by-elections held (after GE13) like in the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat and Kajang state seat also showed Chinese voters' support increasingly returning to BN," he told reporters after he officially opened the Johor Baharu MCA division office, here, Sunday.

He said the Teluk Intan by-election results showed an increase of 14.5 per cent in Chinese support for BN.

Wee, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said the analysis done by MCA showed a similar encouraging trend in the Kajang by-election.

He said that spurred on by this trend, MCA would double its efforts to win back the nine state seats in Johor where the majority votes won by the opposition were less than 10 per cent.

Among the seats to be focused on would be Stulang, Parit Yaani, Johor Jaya and Mengkibol, said Wee, who is also the MP for Ayer Hitam.

"If there is an increase of three to eight per cent Chinese support in the nine seats, BN will be able recapture these seats in the next general election," he added.

On the parliamentary seats in Johor, he said MCA would be drawing up strategies to retain four seats and win back another four including Gelang Patah which fell to the opposition last year.

Besides Ayer Hitam, the parliamentary seats held by MCA are Labis, Tebrau and Tanjung Piai.

In GE13, the Gelang Patah seat which was traditionally held by MCA was given to Umno to contest but the seat is expected to be returned to MCA in GE14.

Johor Baharu MP Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad who was present at the event today, said BN had a good chance of winning back the Gelang Patah seat, whose MP now is DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang.

Johor has 26 parliamentary seats and 56 state seats.

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