

Chang Yeow is Penang Gerakan chief

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GEORGE TOWN: The guessing game for the Penang Gerakan chairmanship ended yesterday with a thumping win for former Barisan Nasional (BN) chief Teng Chang Yeow over outspoken party human rights bureau chief Baljit Singh.

Teng polled 220 votes to beat the younger Baljit, who obtained 106 votes. There were two spoilt votes.

The results showed that delegates were not ready yet to accept a non-Chinese party chief at the state level although Gerakan is perceived to be multiracial.

"There is no winner or loser in this

contest. All we can see is the unity that prevails," Teng said after the polls.

At a press conference later, he said his main task now is to strengthen the party's position in the state after its disastrous performance in the last general election.

Teng resigned as state BN chairman after the party's poor showing in the May 5 polls, in which he lost to PKR's Ong Chin Wen in the Bukit Tengah state constituency.

On his chances of being appointed state BN chairman again, Teng said he will focus on building up the state Gerakan for now.

Of the 14 candidates contesting to become state committee members, the six elected were Ng Siew Lai with 208 votes, H.G. Puvaniten (205), Lee

Boon Ten (200), Tan Kah Leong (187), Teh Kheng Siong (156) and Dr Thor Teong Gee (148 votes).

The delegates chose Chan Kim Beng, Tan Chuan Koon, Ooi Ah Bee, Tan Chee Heong and A.R. Velu to represent the state at the national delegates conference in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 26.

Baljit, in a press conference, congratulated Teng on his victory, and said he would work with him to strengthen the party.

On the support from 33% of the delegates, he said it was proof that the delegates did not vote along racial lines.

Baljit also quashed rumours that he will join the DAP on losing to Teng.



Teng and Baljit exchange pleasantries at the party polls.

MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

Najib: We won't neglect Sabah and Sarawak

> PM says federal govt will ensure balanced development for all states

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday stressed that the federal government under his leadership would not neglect Sabah and Sarawak but ensure balanced development for all states.

The prime minister said a compromise had been reached to protect the interests of Sabah and Sarawak together with those of the Federation of Malaya in the formation of Malaysia.

He said autonomy rights and the position of the two states were stated in Article 20 of the Cobbold Commission.

"As prime minister, I am always making efforts to ensure there is equitable development for all states," he said in his latest posting in his blog www.iMalaysia.com.my in conjunction with Malaysia Day today.

Najib said continuous efforts to develop the economies of Sabah and Sarawak were a priority of the federal government.

In fact, he said, the living standard of the people in the two states had seen a marked change since 50 years ago, in tandem with global development.

Najib said since 2010, the government allocated RM2 billion to implement 70 rural infrastructure projects in Sabah and Sarawak.

He said that in 2012, a total of RM62.3 million from the RM2 billion was allocated to the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (Score) for several projects, including access and internal roads in the Tanjung Manis Halal Hub, water supply in Samalaju and feasibility studies for a Science Park in Mukah.

He said RM207 million was also allocated for the Sabah Development Corridor.

Najib said this year was very historical for

all Malaysians as today the nation will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of Malaysia.

"The proclamation on the formation of Malaysia was made by Malaysia's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman on that historic day (Sept 16) in 1963 at Stadium Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur," he said.

"At the time, the people, from various races and religions, dreamed of independence, freedom and prosperity in a sovereign nation."

In conjunction with the 50th Malaysia Day today, Najib called on all Malaysians to work together to advance the nation's economy, defend its sovereignty and preserve harmony.

"Although still at a young age, Malaysia has built a nation that is respected, whether in political, economic or social aspects. The sacrifices and hard work by all parties in developing the country, safeguarding the peace and prosperity all this while will always be valued," he added. - Bernama

BERNAMAPIX



SMILING FACES ... Joy is written on the faces of these Sarawakians as they wave the Jalur Gemilang during a rehearsal yesterday for the 50th Malaysia Day celebrations in Kuching today. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Hamidah will grace the function.

Wee, Surendran disappointed with new bumi plan

PETALING JAYA: Two political party leaders, including one from the ruling party Barisan Nasional, have responded negatively to the Bumiputra Economic Empowerment plan launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak on Saturday.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong said: "I do not oppose the government's wish to enhance the bumiputras, but they should also reach out to other needy populations, by giving them equal business opportunities."

"If this sort of approach is adopted permanently, there will be far-reaching consequences that will impact other races," he said in a statement yesterday.

Pointing out that government-linked companies (GLCs) have developed through

resources from tax-payers of all ethnicities, Wee said no racial distinction in the performance of GLCs should exist.

This applies to education as well, where the government should ensure non-bumiputras have equal opportunities to be enrolled in public universities, he said.

He urged the government to produce a fair Budget 2014 that is based on needs and merits, not race.

"It should be remembered that when Najib launched the iMalaysia concept, its governance aimed to be fair, where assistance and care are to be rendered to all regardless of race," he said.

PKR vice-president N. Surendran said the plan is "blatantly discriminatory",

contravening Article 8 of the Constitution.

"Nothing in the Constitution allows the government to set up massive funds, share schemes, housing developments and contracts for the benefit of only one race," he said in a statement yesterday.

The lawyer, who is also Padang Serai MP, stressed that Article 153 allows only "very specific and limited quotas for bumiputras".

As for the reasoning by the prime minister that the government had to reward the bumiputras for the support given to BN in the May election, Surendran said: "This is nothing short of punishment of non-Malays for voting the opposition, and an attempt at large-scale political bribery of the Malay community."

Govt proposes tenancy limit in KL

PRESS DIGEST

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THE government may restrict the number of tenants in residential units in Kuala Lumpur as foreign workers are packed like sardines in some of them.

According to a report in *China Press* yesterday, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor said the authorities concerned are considering amending the current law or formulating new legislation to stop house owners from taking in too many tenants.

He said some irresponsible property owners rent part of their shophouses, apartments or houses to foreign workers in numbers that are many times these units are meant to accommodate.

"At present, we don't have any law to limit the number of occupants in residential units. We (the government) also don't know how to deal with such errant property owners," Tengku Adnan told the daily in an interview last week, the first since he assumed the post four months ago.

"This is one of the most challenging issues I have encountered since I took over the ministry. I have directed the ministry's legal advisers to study the feasibility of formulating a new legislation or to amend the existing law."

He believed the local authority, which comes under the Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government Ministry, is best suited to implement the cap on occupants in residential units in the city once the relevant regulations are in place.

The Federal Territories Ministry and City Hall will study the enforcement aspect, he said.

Tengku Adnan admitted that the problem of illegal foreign workers has become a serious issue in Kuala Lumpur, and the authorities must take appropriate action to deal with the situation.

"Many places occupied by foreign workers have very poor sanitary conditions. Rubbish is littered all over the place and people spit everywhere," he said.

The minister said foreign workers can be seen packed like sardines in rented houses or apartments in Jalan Imbi, Bukit Bintang, Kampung Baru, Keramat, Kampung Kerinchi, Bangsar, Segambut and Kepong.

"As many as 20 people may be crammed into a 650sq ft house, resulting in poor sanitary conditions."