

Mahathir's sugar challenge

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childish

PENANG, Fri. — Partai Sosialis Rakyat Malaysia's national chairman, Encik Kassim Ahmad, has described a challenge by Dr. Mahathir as "the most ludicrous and childish one I have come across in my political career."

Dr. Mahathir had challenged him at a by-election rally to supply five million pounds of

imported sugar at 50 cents a kati, or pay a \$100,000 penalty if he could not provide the sugar at that price.

"Ours is a socialist political party and not a trading corporation.

"We stand for a planned economy and an economy system under which there will be no exploitation of consumers," Encik Kassim said.

"If political power is in the hands of our party, we would be able to supply sugar at 25 cents a kati or at a price within the means of the majority of the people.

"Under the socialist system, the loss incurred in supplying sugar to the people at subsidised prices will be made up by profits in other sectors of the economy like rubber, tin, palm oil and timber."