

Kit Siang using a sympathy strategy: Mahathir

PENANG, Mon. — DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang is adopting a "sympathy strategy" in his contest against Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu in the Padang Kota state constituency.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today they were confident that the people of Penang would reject Mr Lim.

Dr Mahathir, speaking to reporters in Kajang after meeting Selangor Barisan Nasional candidates said:

"The people of Penang are not stupid. They can see through this ploy.

"I am confident that they will not humiliate Dr Lim who has served Penang for such a long time and has helped develop it into one of the most progressive states in the country."

Dr Ling, who arrived here today, said Mr Lim had obviously realised now that he had made an unwise move to contest against Dr Lim.

He urged the people not to be "clouded" by Mr Lim's attempt to gain their sympathy.

Mr Lim said last night that he would not offer himself as parliamentary Opposition Leader if the

party failed to capture Penang.

He said he would also not offer himself for the post of DAP secretary-general in the party elections at the end of the year.

"I will accept full responsibility if we fail in our Tanjung 2 battle, and it will be time to close my political life," he told a *ceramah* at the Batu Lintang Dewan Rakyat.

Mr Lim said that the failure of Tanjung 2 would spell the "beginning of the end" of his 24-year political life.

He added that the Tanjung 2 battle was not a contest between him and Dr Lim but "a last ditch fight of Penangites to choose the Chief Minister and the State Government they want."

The DAP is contesting seven parliamentary and 20 state seats in Penang.

At a press conference today, Dr Lim said Mr Lim could not be the Opposition leader again because of his superiors in the *Gagasan Rakyat*.

"So it is either the PAS or the Semangat 46. This shows that he is committed to support PAS," he said.

Dr Lim said Mr Lim's decision to retire from the DAP leadership might give the DAP a new lease of life.

"He now realises that he has made a very big mistake and placed the DAP in utter jeopardy," he said.