

# 'Kit Siang trying to get voters' sympathy' PM: DAP setting psychological trap

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**KAJANG, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded voters not to fall into the psychological trap being set by the DAP in Penang to gain their sympathy and votes.**

DAP secretary general Lim Kit Siang had told voters in Penang that he was not confident of winning the general election. He is contesting the Padang Kota State seat against Dr Lim Chong Eu and in Tanjung against Boey Weng Keat for a parliamentary seat.

Mr Lim had also said that he would take full responsibility if the party's Tanjung II plan failed.

Dr Mahathir said Mr Lim made such a statement in the hope that the people would sympathise with him and give him their votes.

But the Prime Minister was confident that the Penang voters were not naive and would not fall into such a trap. He was responding to questions from reporters after addressing Selangor BN candidates, party workers and supporters here.

Earlier, he had a similar meeting in Seremban. At both sessions, Dr Mahathir told voters not to vote for candidates who were ungrateful to the Government, saying that these candidates had nothing to offer to the people other than their narrow interest.

The Prime Minister said these candidates, who

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made up a portion of the Opposition nominations, were only seeking to further their political ambitions regardless of the disunity they were trying to create.

Dr Mahathir said: "Some of these candidates were in the Government once. Some held Cabinet posts. They became important personalities because people like you voted them in, because Umno and Barisan Nasional component parties nominated them, and because party workers worked hard to campaign for them.

"But now that they're no longer in the Government, they go against the Government, having forgotten all the good that the Government had done for them. These people are ungrateful. Therefore, don't vote for them," he added.

The meetings were also attended by BN candidates who are not seeking re-election, and those who were not picked for this weekend's national polls.

As BN chairman, Dr Mahathir told coalition workers to extend the advice to voters in their respective constituencies.

Dr Mahathir likened

some of these Opposition candidates to olden-day pirates who would not hesitate to eliminate their supporters once they had no further use for them.

When in Government, these people amassed wealth for their own personal gains, reflecting their greed for power and position. They had left Umno and the BN to form a political party made up of Umno rejects.

Umno and the BN were left with capable, responsible and dedicated leaders who enjoyed the trust and confidence of the people. Voters realised this and should return the capable ones back to power.

He said it was important for the people to be informed of the mistakes made by these ungrateful leaders so that they would not be returned as MPs or State Assemblymen.

Dr Mahathir said he failed to understand how the Opposition could make many promises to the people without outlining how these could be carried out. Paying pensioners financial allowances and building new roads without intending to charge toll would only lead to financial bankruptcy for the country.

Making these benefits available without a practical blueprint could result in further debts by the Government. This would be unhealthy, Dr Mahathir said, adding that the various manifestos from Opposition parties were just empty promises and election ploys.

The Prime Minister said the Opposition's attempts to discredit Government projects were futile because these projects have proved viable and successful. He cited the Malaysian car project as a clear example of the country's successful venture into heavy industry.

"The Penang bridge cost about \$700 million when it was built. It would cost the country \$1.4 billion to build it now, bearing in mind various increases in construction expenditure," he said as he countered the Opposition's criticisms against Government projects.

Dr Mahathir said the Opposition had promised to give more oil royalty payments. If this was done, Terengganu and Sabah would get a sizeable portion of the revenue while other States would get less.