

'Chong Eu deserves to  
win uncontested'

# Kit Siang

# is unfair,

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# says PM

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**PENANG, Fri.** — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu should have been given a walkover in the weekend's polls in view of his immense contributions to the State.

Describing Dr Lim as the man responsible for making Penang the silicon valley of Malaysia, he said the Chief Minister had brought a lot of development and progress to Penang over the last 20 years.

Unfortunately there were people who were trying to persuade the people in urban areas to vote Opposition "just to make some noise" in the State Assemblies, Dr Mahathir said

when opening the \$1.3 million Jalan Petani Balai Rakyat.

He compared DAP leader Karpal Singh to Dr Lim and asked what his (Karpal's) achievements were.

"Karpal is known for throwing books, numerous walkouts and making Press statements. But actually, he is very happy when he is suspended as he can then concentrate on his legal practice," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who was here on a half-day visit, said it was very unfair of Mr Lim Kit Siang to demand that the people of Penang throw out Dr Lim Chong Eu after what the Chief Minister had done for the State.

"Dr Lim has devoted 20 years of his life to the service of the people of Penang and he had stood in Padang Kota so many times that he deserved to win uncontested.

"Now Kit Siang has not only challenged Dr Lim, but the people of Penang have to choose between him or Dr Lim. What can he (Mr Lim) do that

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# Dr Mahathir: Urban voters should change their practice

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Dr Lim cannot?"

Dr Mahathir also said Umno has already had four presidents but the DAP is owned by Mr Lim "and he wants to lead it until the day he dies".

Mr Lim, he said, talked about "meaningful politics" and democracy but there was no democracy in the DAP.

"Kit Siang will get rid of other DAP leaders he does not like, such as Fan Yew Teng and, more recently, Mr Lee Lam Thye, whom he (Kit Siang) wanted to send to Perak to clear out other leaders like P. Patta," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was nothing to be gained by voting for Mr Lim and Mr Karpal Singh.

He said although the Opposition was trying to por-

tray the Government as "undemocratic", the Government had allowed opposition newspapers like *Harakah* to be published.

"Publications such as the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and *Asian Wall Street Journal*, which often say unkind things about the Government, are still allowed to be on sale.

"Even the *Rocket* (DAP publication) which condemns the Government from its front page to the last is not banned. This shows that we were very democratic," he said.

On the contrary, he said the Opposition would burn all newspapers and close TV3 if it came to power.

Dr Mahathir said the BN needed a two-thirds majority to ensure that the country remained stable and peaceful.

He warned that investors would not come if the Government was weak.

Later, addressing a gathering at the Chinese Town Hall here, Dr Mahathir again praised Dr Lim, attributing Penang's development to the Chief Minister's leadership.

He asked Penang voters to return the Chief Minister and the BN for continued progress of the State.

In this context, Dr Mahathir asked Penang voters to break away from the urban trend of supporting opposition parties and cast their ballots for BN candidates.

The Prime Minister said it was illogical and unfair of urban voters to be pro-Opposition while enjoying the benefits of urban facilities and services made pos-

sible through the BN Government.

"The BN has ably served the urban areas like Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Ipoh. These areas are now more beautiful and have better amenities than cities in other developing countries," he said.

He told urban voters that they had plenty to gain and nothing to lose by voting BN.

It was high time they changed their dual stance of supporting the DAP while depending on the Government for services, he added.

The Prime Minister, who had also earlier met BN candidates in Komtar, warned Penangites of the oblique manner in which the DAP was co-operating with Pas in the polls.