

Dr M: Choosing Kit Siang will be grave error

JITRA, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the people of Penang that they would be making a grave mistake if they supported DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang in his contest against Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon for the Tanjung Bunga State seat.

The Prime Minister said the Penang people would have nothing to gain if they voted for Lim.

However, Dr Mahathir expressed his confidence that Dr Koh would win in his fight against the Opposition Leader.

"I think his (Dr Koh) chances

are quite good. In fact I don't think he is going to lose but I don't like the tactics of the DAP.

"They seem to be not content with just winning seats. They seem to want to pose a terrible choice for the people and this is typical of them.

"And as you know the DAP has already been talking about power and we know what Kit Siang means by power in his own party where nobody who opposes him could stay in the party.

"So many of these senior members have left the party because they could not tolerate

his arrogance and his dictatorial ways, knowing of course the origin of the DAP.

"So it will be a grave mistake for the Penang people to support Kit Siang because they have nothing at all to gain."

Dr Mahathir was asked by reporters for his comment on Dr Koh's chances of winning the contest against the DAP secretary-general.

The Prime Minister was speaking to newsmen at the Kubang Pasu district office's meeting room here at the close of nominations for the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

Dr Mahathir said he had expected Lim to challenge Koh because "Kit Siang is fond of threatening the voters with losing the Opposition."

"He will be campaigning that if he loses, that will be the end of the DAP but if Dr Koh loses, there will be other people to take over from him.

"It was similar in the past (1990 election) when (former Penang Chief Minister Dr Lim) Chong Eu was defeated, there would be someone else taking over.

"This is his (Lim) line of attack. So he will be campaigning asking for sympathy so that the

people will not annihilate the DAP," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Lim was fond of claiming that the DAP was the sole opposition party and the people needed an Opposition.

Dr Mahathir said: "We agree there should be an opposition party but we are of the opinion that DAP style of opposition is useless.

"They oppose irrationally, they prefer to scorn others, they are not being constructive," he added.

Dr Mahathir also dismissed the DAP's claim on the land acquisition issue.

"In the land acquisition issue, it is not because of the DAP that we cancel a plan to acquire land. We made the decision after carrying out a comprehensive study," he added.

Asked on DAP national deputy chairman Ahmad Noor's statement that the party would field Malay candidates to contest against Umno candidates, Dr Mahathir said: "They are welcome to fight."

"I know these people, they are opportunists. People who have no standing, no principles

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'Pas using religion to fool people'

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at all. Like Mat (Ahmad) Noor.

"Mat Noor at one time claimed he was asked by me to stand as president of Cuepacs and thereby gain the support of the members of Cuepacs. This is the kind of person in the DAP and all those Malays in the DAP are of the same guild," he said.

Asked why the people should not vote Pas, Dr Mahathir said the party had nothing to offer.

"Not even religion. They are not representative of what the Islamic religion is. They merely use Islam as a facade in order to cheat the people, fool the people into thinking that they were fighting for the religion, which in fact they are not.

"The way they badmouth people, the way they consider that fighting against them is fighting against the Prophet ... is Nik Aziz a prophet? Its blasphemy for him to say that.

"So I think people should realise ... of course his fanatical followers will vote for him anywhere like all fanatics, they will vote, like this Japanese guy who released poisonous gas in Japan.

"They will still follow him despite the evil he is doing. It is the same here. This man has no compunction about him using the teaching of Islam for his own political purpose," he added.

Asked if the Government would take action against the Opposition for inciting racial feelings, he said the Government would only act if their action threatened the country's security.

"We are not trying to suppress them, they are free but they should be a little bit cautious," he added.