

'Kit Siang wants power to be above the law'

PENANG, Fri. — Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang wants to become Chief Minister so that he can have power to be above the law, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Kit Siang had proven in several instances to have challenged law enforcers and regulations simply because he was the Opposition leader.

He cited as examples Kit Siang's challenge to the police who asked him not to hold a public rally recently and his refusal "to pay toll like everyone else".

"This kind of man does not have regard for the laws. He thinks the laws do not apply to him because he is the leader of the Opposition.

"Nobody is above the law ... not even Government Ministers or the Chief Minister. But he (Kit Siang) regards having power as being above the law," Dr Mahathir told a gathering in Bayan Baru when launching the Jalan Tun Dr Awang Indoor Stadium Complex project here.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad, State executive councillors and Barisan Nasional election leaders and candidates.

Dr Mahathir said the Chief Minister had power, which was the mandate from the people, to implement development programmes.

"He has consultations with his executive councillors to ensure that every decision is legitimate, in accordance with the law and is rational ... this is the way of the Government of Malaysia. We do not want power to be above the law."

Dr Mahathir said what

the Barisan Nasional wanted was the mandate from the people as defined by the law "and not more than that" so that it could govern the country and carry out development.

The Prime Minister said the people of Penang were lucky to have two "very good Chief Ministers", in reference to former Chief Minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu who lost the Padang Kota State seat to Kit Siang in 1990 and Dr Koh Tsu Koon whom the Opposition leader is now contesting against for the Tanjung Bunga State seat.

The Prime Minister said that he "got along very well" with them, adding that he could talk and discuss with them issues for mutual benefit.

"That is the way. A Government does not mean that it can play with the power (that it has). We are in the business of Government, a Government that is according to the laws of the country."

Dr Mahathir said Kit Siang regarded voters as a tool for him to achieve his ambition to capture Penang.

"To him, voters are people with no value or meaning ... to be used when he wants to and discarded when he does not."

He reminded the people that Kit Siang had persuaded them to vote against Lim during the 1990 elections in Padang Kota, thus removing him as Chief Minister.

"After winning, he abandons Padang Kota and his voters and goes elsewhere."

The Prime Minister also said that DAP Malay candidates were "bankrupt" and joined the Opposition party in order to be candidates. He said the DAP picked "a few Malays who are useless" when its politics of Chinese racialism became apparent.