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DAP names Goh Kheng Huat for contest

PENANG, Sat. - The DAP today named State organising secretary Goh Kheng Huat as its candidate in the by-election for the Sungai Bakap State seat on Nov 8.

In making the announcement at the State party headquarters, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang conceded the party "hardly had any chance" of wresting the seat from the Barisan Nasional.

The BN has named Gerakan State youth vice-chairman Lai Chew Hock as its candidate. Lai is a local born.

Goh, 34, is the managing director of two companies and a local boy. He was born in Simpang Ampat within the Sungai Bakap State constituency.

The chairman of the DAP Nibong Tebal parliamentary liaison committee and Kampung Jawi branch, he is contesting in an election for the third time.

Lim said: "The DAP is fielding Goh to give the Penang voters an opportunity to pass a mid-term verdict on the BN after its unprecedented landslide victory in the 1995 general election."

He said some people felt the DAP should not contest to show its support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in tackling the "multiple crises" such as the economic woes and haze problem facing the country.

"We believe that it is better to show the world that although Malaysians fully support Dr Mahathir and the BN Government in dealing with the multiple crises, we have enough wisdom about the importance of accountability and transparency and enough confidence in the maturity of our people and society to maintain a healthy and vibrant democracy where there is full room for dissent and criticism, even where it concerns the actions or statements of the Prime Minister himself."

Nomination has been fixed for Oct 29. The by-election follows the death in a road accident of the BN Assemblyman Ooi Theng Bok on Sept 23.

(END)