

28 OCT 1997

Keng Yaik-DAP

DAP NOT SINCERE IN SUPPORTING DR M SAYS GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- The Gerakan today questioned the DAP's sincerity in supporting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when debating the 1998 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat last week.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, said the DAP behaved like a hypocrite as it now wanted to field a candidate against the Barsan Nasional (BN) in the Sungai Bakap state by-election.

Only last week DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang expressed support for Dr Mahathir's leadership but in another scenario he had sought to challenge the BN under Dr Mahathir.

Although the DAP had stated its support for every measure taken by the government in the 1998 Budget in dealing with the present economic situation, Lim still wanted to "attack" the BN in the by-election.

Dr Lim made the statement at the Parliament House lobby.

It was truly amusing to notice Dr Lim making the scathing attack on Lim, without realising that his political adversary was just behind him.

Last Saturday, DAP announced it would be fielding Goh Kheng Huat, 34, of Simpang Ampat, Nibong Tebal to contest the seat in the Nov 8 by-election. In the last general elections Goh contested the Jawi state seat, but lost to BN's Tan Cheng Liang.

BN will field Lai Chew Hock, 33, as its candidate when nomination opens tomorrow for the Sungai Bakap seat, which fell vacant with the death of Ooi Theng Bok in a road accident last Sept 23

Dr Lim also chided the Election Commission for fixing nomination day tomorrow, when a number of BN leaders could not be present because of the weekly cabinet meeting.

He hoped that voters would not misconstrued the likely absence of many of the BN leaders tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Kit Siang said he was puzzled as to why the Gerakan was "scared" to face the DAP in the by-election in the state constituency, being a BN stronghold.

Lim was of the opinion that the Gerakan was scared of the possible recurrence of what took place in the Teluk Intan parliamentary election when the DAP won the seat. --BERNAMA

AKT AR ABG