

Keadilan and PAS have trapped DAP, says Mahathir

LANGKAWI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad painted a bleak future for the DAP, saying PAS and Keadilan have trapped the party over the candidacy for the Lunas by-election.

"DAP has no future at all," he said, adding that the party had allowed itself to be manipulated by a loose Opposition front.

"They have no choice because they will be left alone if they pull out from the coalition.

"It is obvious that DAP has been lured by Keadilan to fall into their trap and in the end, PAS will emerge the winner," the Prime Minister said here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir expressed confidence that Barisan Nasional would retain Lunas but predicted a reduced majority.

He reasoned that Keadilan's strategy was not to win the by-election but to split the Malays. "They forget that ... our victories do not solely depend on Malay

voters but the Chinese and Indians.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the fact that no DAP "big guns" were present during the nomination spelled doom for the Opposition pact.

"This means there's a split and the DAP is gone," he said after accompanying MIC candidate S. Anthonysamy to the nomination centre.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the DAP had "lost its dignity and integrity."

"The opposition front has kicked them out. DAP's Indian supporters will know they do not have justice anymore."

MCA vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng said the Chinese community would not fall into the same trap as DAP did.

He said the Chinese in Lunas would support continued development and multi-racial representation.

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