

**Najib: DAP supporters terribly provocative**  
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Deputy Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today stressed that Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties have always respected the law and do not create disturbances.

He also suggested that Tuesday's fracas in Machap could have been sparked off by DAP supporters.

"Those who were involved in the scuffle had stated that they were terribly provoked by DAP supporters who insulted and hurt their feelings," he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

"Since the incident has become a police case, let the police investigate," he said.

Najib, who is also BN deputy chairperson, was commenting on the police reports lodged by two Negeri Sembilan DAP members.

The duo alleged that they were attacked by a group of MIC members while leaving the Machap state seat by-election nomination centre at the Japerun complex in Bukit Bulat, Malacca.

Technician K. Kannis, 42, and transport worker A. Vijayan, 24, were reported to have been slightly injured in the scuffle and were sent to the Alor Gajah Hospital for treatment.

A Malaysia Nanban reporter and Makal Osai photographer also made police reports on the incident. Police have arrested a 28-year-old man.

BN candidate Lai Meng Chong, 56, is facing DAP's Liou Chen Kuang, 33, in the April 12 by-election.

The seat fell vacant following the death of its assemblyperson Poh Ah Tiam on March 15.

**No issues**

Meanwhile, Najib also took a swipe at DAP for claiming that the BN candidate was abusing his power and misusing funds to campaign.

The deputy premier said the opposition party had run out of issues. "They're groping hard for issues that they could even make such an accusation against our candidate.

"As a candidate, he (Lai) has no power but when they (Machap Baru residents) have problems like they need housing meant for the poor, he would get the forms and submit them to the chief minister for consideration. This is not against the law," he added.

DAP had claimed that Lai had promised a state government allocation to rebuild five houses in the Machap Baru New Village.

Najib however dismissed this as a desperate tactic by DAP.

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