

**Don't give cheap politicians their cheap publicity**  
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**Michael Ng**

Whether we agree with it or not, our election process has always been based on race. Each time there is a general election, the Election Commission would compile a list of the constituencies that are up for grabs and along with it, there will be a print-out of their racial breakdown.

The coming Machap by-election in Malacca is no exception. Already, there have been reports that the state seat is a predominantly Chinese constituency with a sizeable Malay electorate while Indians and others make up the rest.

I know many right-minded Malaysians will vote for a candidate who can serve the people well irrespective of race and religion. Sadly, there are also many who will still vote along racial and party lines, even if the candidate is known for his or her fickle-mindedness and misdeeds.

However, finding a good and honest politician is hard these days as many are in politics for their own political and business interests.

At last year's Umno General Assembly, we had certain half-baked politicians making seditious speeches, much to the chagrin of others. Other than a stern warning from the party, no further action seems to have been taken against them.

Archaic policies of the government which do not bring about national unity should be done away with. Malaysia is still a wonderful place to live in despite the occasional controversies sparked by irresponsible statements issued by certain people whom I am certain the majority of Malaysians don't give a hoot about.

The mainstream media can play its role by not giving these people the cheap publicity that they so earnestly seek.

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