

Dr M's hand seen in Perkasa top duo's candidacy

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The fact that BN has fielded Perkasa vice-president Zulkifli Nordin in Shah Alam and its nominee for Pasir Mas stepping aside for Perkasa president Ibrahim Ali are signs of the 'absolute power' of former Umno head Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"One day he may put Ibrahim as prime minister!" DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang told a press conference in Gelang Patah this morning.

The situation also showed that the other component parties in BN are impotent and irrelevant under the hegemony of Umno, Lim said.

"Obviously, Perkasa has now become the 14th entity in BN. What is the stance of MCA, Gerakan and other BN component parties? Do they agree with Perkasa becoming an unofficial party in BN...?"

Lim recounted Mahathir's earlier statement that more people like Ibrahim were needed to save Malaysia.

"It is very clear that in the view of Mahathir, Ibrahim is qualified to be the prime minister, maybe more qualified than (Prime Minister) Najib (Abdul Razak) and (Deputy Prime Minister) Muhyiddin (Yassin).

"Now Mahathir's view is very serious because he is the absolute power in Umno. One day he may put Ibrahim as prime minister!" he said.

During the nomination last Saturday, Umno's nominee for the Pasir Mas parliamentary seat, Che Johan Che Pa, did not file his nomination papers.

Che Johan stepped aside to pave way for Ibrahim to contest as an independent candidate against Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz of PAS.

DAP national publicity secretary Tony Pua (left), who present at the press conference, said it was the first time in Umno's history that an Umno nominee did not file his nomination, even though he was at the nomination centre.

In contrast, Pua said, PAS has unprecedentedly nominated a Christian to contest as PAS candidate in Ayer Hitam.

"Will we see the day when Umno will, for example, have a Chinese standing in an Umno seat or a Malay standing for MCA? That's the difference between BN and Pakatan Rakyat."

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