

DAP's Liou to vie for Machap again
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Despite a crushing defeat during the last general election, businessman Liou Chen Kuang is once again going to carry the torch for the DAP in the Machap by-election on April 12.

In the previous outing, Liou was routed by the late Poh Ah Tiam by a thumping 4,562 votes.

Poh, the former MCA Malacca chief, passed away on March 15. The Chinese-majority seat of Machap is considered a traditional MCA stronghold.

In a statement today, DAP secretary general Lim Guan Eng said Liou, 33, continued to serve the Machap constituents despite the defeat.

"With his knowledge of the local terrain, Liou enjoys grassroots support in the Kampung Permai Machap Umboo and Kampung Machap Baru New Village," said Lim.

Uphill battle

Lim described Liou, a father of two, as "competent, honest, friendly and ever willing to serve Machap constituents".

"DAP hopes that the voters in Machap can give this young successful businessman who has committed himself to stand together with Machap voters for the future, the opportunity to represent them, handle their problems, be their voice of hope and speak fearlessly against injustices," added Lim.

DAP would be using the slogan "Machap Demokrasi" - intended to educate voters on the importance of democracy in Malaysia.

Liou is expected to face an uphill battle against a yet-to-be announced candidate from the MCA.

MCA has also thrown a few names around including party vice-president Dr Fong Chan Onn's special assistant Ngow Dow Soon, his political secretary Lai Meng Chong and his private secretary Chew Chong Lin.

'Political deserter'

Prime Minister and BN chairperson Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would have the final say. An announcement on the candidate is expected later today.

In another development, MCA youth chief Liow Tiong Lai has described Lim as a 'political deserter' for not contesting in the by-election.

"As DAP secretary general and who is now free to contest in elections, Lim can contest in Machap but he has chosen to abandon Malacca to move to Penang prior to the by-election," said Liow according to The Sun.

"Lim is a free man. He is from Malacca, but he dares not contest in the by-election. If he is not afraid of losing, why is he not contesting? Instead he is moving to Penang. He is avoiding a fight... he is a political deserter".

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