

**Intention To Field Malay Candidates A DAP Ploy**  
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MELAKA -- Melaka Chief Minister Mohd Ali Rustam said today the reported DAP intention to field Malay candidates in the next general election was merely a ploy by the party to attract voters.

He said the DAP's Malay candidates would not be able to champion the plight of the Malay community because the party was seen as racist.

"This is just a ploy to draw voters. Let's see whether they field the candidates," he told reporters after a visit to Bukit Baru town, here.

Mohd Ali, who is Melaka Umno Liaison Committee chairman, said the DAP might want to field Malay candidates as it could not rely on the candidates of its opposition partners, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) and PAS, to garner the support of the Malays in the next general election.

He said the DAP had all along fielded candidates in Chinese-majority constituencies and was seen to be afraid to field candidates in Malay-majority areas.

"The DAP can field any candidate. This is a democratic country. We (Melaka Umno) are ready to face any DAP candidate, and we will win the next general election," he said.

Yesterday, Umno Vice-President Ahmad Zahid Hamidi revealed what he said was a DAP plan to field Malay candidates in several states, among them Melaka, Perak and Negeri Sembilan, in the next general election.

(Bernama)

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