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Dr M: DAP trying to fool the people

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PUTRAJAYA: DAP is trying to fool the people with its latest ploy, claiming there was an error in the party's recent election, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir said if the blunder was true, DAP was not fit to rule a state or country.

"It was not an error, they (DAP) counted correctly but when they (DAP) found out there were no Malay in the party's central executive committee (CEC), they claimed they made a mistake.

"How can they be so stupid that they do not know how to count the votes?

"If they (DAP) do not know how to count votes, then they should not become a government," said the former Umno president after a dialogue with the MAYC Veterans' Club at the Perdana Leadership Founda-

tion here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said, in truth, DAP never planned for any Malay candidate to be in the CEC.

"It's a political ploy and utter nonsense. Now they're trying to correct it," he added.

When asked whether it was a ploy to fool Malay supporters in the Chinese-dominated party, Dr Mahathir said it had been DAP's intention all along.

DAP election director Pooi Weng Keong had last Friday submitted a resignation letter, following errors in the vote tabulation

at DAP's 16th National Congress

held last month.

The error saw Zairil Abdullah, who is political secretary to party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng, who was not initially among the list of 20 CEC members, being placed in the 20th position with 803 votes.

DAP chairman Karpal Singh, on Saturday, admitted the whole fiasco was "an embarrassing mistake that should not have happened".

Earlier, Dr Mahathir stressed on the need for veterans to play a role in helping the younger generation make the right choices,

especially when it came to choosing

who they wanted to govern the country.

He said veterans were capable of influencing them because they have the experience and had seen the hardship before and after Malaysia gained independence from the British.

"They have seen all and they appreciate the efforts by Barisan Nasional to develop the country and elevate its status.

"They are aware of the struggles that the government and leaders went through."

Dr Mahathir also reminded veterans to choose and vote wisely and set an example to the youth, because if they made the wrong choice, it would be hard to take it back.

"But I believe our people are wise and they will choose wisely in the next general election."

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Tun Dr Mahathir*