

DAP's Strategy To Place Malay Candidates Only Gimmick
Bernama
December 16, 2011
By Mohd Hisham Abdul Rafar

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- DAP's plan to field Malay candidates in Malay-majority constituencies in the 13th general election is seen by various quarters as a mere gimmick.

Prof Dr Ahmad Atory Hussain said it was impossible for the DAP to free itself from its image of representing only one community.

"Every party in the peninsula cannot escape from the fact that they are fighting for a specific community," he said when contacted by Bernama, Friday.

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Social Science Studies Centre lecturer said the Chinese would not support DAP if it placed a Malay candidate in a Chinese-majority area, and vice versa.

PAS Secretary-General, Datuk Mustafa Ali recently said the issue of DAP wanting to field Malay candidates in Malay-majority seats had never been discussed by the opposition pact's leadership.

However, the DAP plan was confirmed by Selangor PAS Ccommissioner III Khalid Abdul Samad recently, who said it was discussed at a PAS-Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) meeting.

Rumours have also been rife that the DAP would be going along this route.

Umno Supreme Council member and Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee deputy chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin said DAP was welcome to field Malays candidates in Kelantan.

"This aspiration of DAP is seen as the party trying to seek the support of the Malays and to prove that party is accepted by all races," said Dr Awang Adik, who is also Deputy Finance Minister, when contacted by Bernama.

Meanwhile, DAP National deputy chief and Member of Parliament for Kepong Dr Tan Seng Giaw said the opposition coalition always discussed the matter of candidates in every general election.

Asked if DAP was formulating a strategy to field Malay candidates in Malay-majority areas in the next GE, Tan said he was not aware of it.

However, this is not something new for the DAP as it had fielded Malays candidates since its general election foray in 1969.

Why the need and what is the hidden motive in DAP's aspiration to place Malay candidates when PAS and PKR are loaded with Malay candidates?

Some political observers think DAP is not too confident of the winnability of Malay

candidates from PAS or PKR in certain Malay-majority areas.

Secondly, they think that the DAP might be forced to field Malay candidates so that one of them could be highlighted as a main personality to replace PKR leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to head the opposition coalition should Anwar be found guilty of the sodomy charge he is facing and goes to jail.

Political analyst, Che Hamdan Mohamed Razali said DAP's move was not only to make Malays fight each other but also to wrest power in certain states.

"The strategy will allow DAP to control a state. If DAP wins the majority and has a Malay candidate to feature, the state will be under the DAP's thumb despite having a Malay Menteri Besar," he said when contacted by Bernama, here.

The Terengganu Universiti Technology Mara (UiTM) Dungun campus lecturer said, for the strategy to work, DAP truly needed influential Malay leaders to get the support of liberal Malays. He was confident DAP would only gamble their Malay candidates in towns.

He said DAP was also seen as trying to dominate the opposition pact by highlighting Malay candidates and simultaneously controlling the administration of the states if the opposition won the next GE.

He reminded Malay voters and Bumiputras specifically to make a wise choice because otherwise their security and rights could change.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=634632>