

Dr M: Kit Siang chose Gelang Patah for Chinese majority
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By Emily Ding

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Lim Kit Siang chose to run in Gelang Patah because of the constituency's Chinese majority.

The former prime minister commented in the New Sunday Times today that "if DAP does not play on its Chinese-ness, it cannot win. That is why Kit Siang chose Gelang Patah where 53 per cent of the voters are Chinese."

He also refuted the veteran DAP leader's claims that Gelang Patah is a microcosm of Malaysian society, saying its racial make-up is not even the norm in Johor, much less the rest of Malaysia.

"If he had said it is a microcosm of urban society, I would agree, certainly not the racial mix and distribution in Malaysia."

In Gelang Patah, the Chinese vote is the largest at 52 per cent, while the Malays and Indians make up 34 per cent and 12 per cent respectively of the 106,726 registered voters.

Mahathir also pointed out that unlike DAP, MCA is supported by Chinese, Malays and Indians. While he defended MCA against claims that it had become irrelevant to the Chinese community within the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition, MCA seems to have abandoned this particular seat to Umno.

Lim faces four-term incumbent Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman in the fight for Gelang Patah.

"MCA is pictured as the lackey of the Malays. What is DAP going to be in Pakatan, the kingmaker, the master?" Mahathir wrote.

"In everything written about Kit Siang, there will always be reference to Chinese racial issues. Malay issues such as their poverty, their need to be more involved in the economy of the country, merit no analysis and support from Kit Siang," he added.

On April 11, Dr Mahathir had written on his blog, chedet.cc, that a Kit Siang win in Gelang Patah would result in racial clashes that would ruin the existing co-operation between the Malay majority and the Chinese community.

Three days later, Kit Siang said in a press statement that he would take Dr Mahathir to court for sedition and defamation if the attorney-general failed to do so.

An incumbent of the Ipoh Timor seat in Perak, the 72-year-old Lim is spearheading the opposition's charge to wipe out as many MCA-held seats as possible in the southern state.

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