

MCA slams Ali Rustam for call to close down Genting Highlands
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The MCA has taken to task former Malacca chief minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam over his call to close down the Genting Highlands casino, saying it was politically-motivated to garnish his credentials ahead of Umno party polls.

Youth secretary-general Chai Kim Sen said his remarks would probably endear him to the Umno grassroots and raise his popularity in the party.

"He should be aware that such remarks will raise controversy," Chai said in a statement today.

Ali Rustam (pic) announced his decision to contest for the post of vice-president this afternoon.

He served as an Umno vice-president from 2004 to 2009 but was subsequently barred from contesting after he was found guilty of breaching party election rules.

His call for the casino closure was made at a function in Malacca yesterday and reported in the Nanyang Siang Pau today.

Ali Rustam claimed that the casino was a source of social problems and crime, adding that he had received many complaints on the matter.

The newly-appointed Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB) chairman made the claim at a press conference after a briefing session with bumiputera entrepreneurs.

He also lamented that the Genting Group had provided zero contribution to Malacca's economy despite high earnings from its casino business.

Ali Rustam stressed that the government did not need to rely on the Genting Highlands casino for tax revenue as there are other resorts in the country.

Chai said Ali Rustam's call was an attempt to fool people by simplifying the problem.

"If we can solve all social problems by closing down casinos, then all the casinos around the world should have been closed down," he said.

Chai said any decision on the future of Genting Highlands lies with the government. –
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