

**Ramkarpal tells Dyana to stay strong in the face of Umno's 'dirty tricks'**  
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**By Elizabeth Zachariah**

Bukit Gelugor candidate Ramkarpal Singh took time off from his packed campaigning schedule to lend support to fellow political greenhorn Dyana Sofya Mohd Daud in Teluk Intan yesterday and to warn her about Umno's "dirty tactics".

The DAP man told a crowd of 100 people gathered at his ceramah in Farlim last night that he had advised Dyana that when Barisan Nasional uses these tactics she should not lose her spirit.

"I told her to fight them. Not to be afraid. And when you feel that you are dispirited, just remember, 'I am Karpal Singh'," he said, referring to his campaign slogan.

Dyana, the political secretary to DAP's Lim Kit Siang, was announced as the party's candidate in the May 31 Teluk Intan by-election.

Since being named as DAP's candidate, the 27-year-old Malay lawyer has been subject to attacks from various detractors, including former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

Dr Mahathir said the party's decision to field a Malay candidate in Teluk Intan was an act to deceive the Malays, adding that it was possible for Dyana to win, as many Malays "were easily duped by such a move".

The former prime minister said he was disappointed with Dyana, who hails from a family of staunch Umno supporters.

Shahrizat, who is also former Women, Family and Community development minister, had expressed pity towards Dyana for allegedly being unaware that she was being used by DAP to grab power and warned her not to be a "traitor" when she shook her hand at the nomination centre yesterday.

Earlier there was a photograph of a bikini-clad woman, said to be Dyana, which was widely circulated in the Internet. However, it was later revealed that the woman in the photograph was Filipina actress Pauleen Luna.

Ramkarpal hit out at both Dr M and Shahrizat, saying that the people have had enough of both of them.

"She (Shahrizat) took so much of money from us and she wants to tell Dyana off? And you (Dr M) have caused so much of ill in this country."

The 38-year-old who is also relatively new to politics, said he had advised Dyana based on what his father had taught him through the way he lived his life.

"Karpal Singh was fearless. Lawan tetap lawan. That is what we learnt from him.

"He was not a Datuk, or a Tan Sri. He was just Karpal Singh. He fought for over 40 years and when he died more than 100,000 people attended his wake," he said.

The crowds, he said, came because they loved his father, and not because of his position.

"We need more leaders like him."

The lawyer, who is standing in the seat made vacant following the death of his father, in a car accident last month, received a rousing applause when he arrived at the ceramah in Jalan Semarak Api last night.

Despite his early start to the day which involved a trip to Teluk Intan, Ramkarpal wore a smile on his face and enthusiastically greeted the crowds which clamoured to shake his hands.

In his 30-minute speech, Ramkarpal hit out at the BN, who opted to stay out of the contest, saying that it was out to fan racial and religious flames in the country.

"They are trying to disunite us, to break us up. No action taken against Utusan Malaysia, (Datuk) Ibrahim Ali (Perkasa president), (Datuk) Zulkifli Noordin and those who could cause tension in the country."

"Whenever the opposition tries to say something, they use the Sedition Act to silence us. But I want to tell (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Najib Razak to 'jangan main-main'," he said.

Ramkarpal is running against Parti Cinta Malaysia vice-president Datuk Huan Cheng Guan and two independent candidates – Abu Backer Sidek Mohammad Zan and Mohd Nabi Bux Mohd Abd Sathar – for the seat in this Sunday's polls.

"Do you think they will be able to stand up to the might of BN? So you think they are going to tell Umno to stop their racial tactics?" he asked the crowd, who answered with a resounding "no".

"That is why we need a strong opposition," he said.

He warned the people not to be lax into thinking that the DAP would easily win the by-election so there was no need to go out and vote.

"They (BN) want you to think it is a foregone conclusion that the DAP will win this. But don't believe this.

"Because if you don't go out and vote, we might not win. And even if we win with a lesser majority, it would be victory to BN as they will claim that support for the DAP is eroding," he added.

He called on the people to pay tribute to his late father by coming out to vote, stressing that Bukit Gelugor will be "the start of the fall of BN".

"We need to continue with the fight and with the spirit of Karpal Singh. It will be a tribute to him to come out in numbers and vote," he said. – May 20, 2014.

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