

# Barisan would have won by bigger margin, says PM

BANGI, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Barisan Nasional would have won yesterday's Kenering by-election by an even bigger majority if 75 per cent of the voters had turned out.

"The people of Kenering were taking things easy following Press reports that the Barisan would retain the seat easily," he said.

The Barisan Nasional candidate, Encik Johan Lahamat, 42, polled 6,116 votes against 2,538 votes polled by his PAS opponent, Haji Mohamed Ariff Yaakob.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said the victory proved that the majority of the people supported the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and government policies.

Datuk Musa who is Umno deputy president, said it also showed that the people approved the leadership of Encik Ramli Ngah Talib, the new Perak Menteri Besar.

In a statement issued in Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Musa, who is also the Perak Umno liaison chief, added that the victory would inspire Encik Ramli and the State Council to work harder to solve the problems of the people.

He hoped that the State Government would continue to bring about changes in the administration to implement development projects more rapidly.

Datuk Musa also thanked all Barisan Nasional component parties, especially the Grik Umno division headed by Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed Haji Wan Teh, for working towards the Barisan success.

In Grik, Encik Ramli said the Barisan victory was outstanding, considering the poor voter turn-out.

He said only about 64 per cent of the voters cast their votes compared with 70 per cent in the last general election.