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**HEADLINE:** BN meet-the-people session a success

**BYLINE:** All reports on "Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections" by Zubaidah AbuBakar; Sharanjit Sing; Aionon Mohd; Patrick Sennyah; Alina Simon; Ridzal A.Latiff

**BODY:**

ALOR STAR, Wed. - More than 1,000 people gathered outside the Anak Bukit Barisan Nasional operations centre for a meet-the-people session with BN leaders led by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last night.

In his speech, Abdullah said the people should realise how the Opposition Front was falling apart due to the various differences and disagreement, especially in relation to the formation of an Islamic State by Pas.

He said when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced that Malaysia was an Islamic State last year there were no complaints or displeasure among the Barisan Nasional component parties.

"However, when Pas announced its plan to form an Islamic State, the DAP pulled out and now we see Parti Rakyat Malaysia openly expressing dissatisfaction.

"This shows there is no unity among the Opposition," he said.

During the two-hour session, representatives of MCA, MIC, Gerakan, PPP and "friends of BN" IPF were called to give speeches.

Abdullah said the BN would never resort to cursing and swearing in its election campaign, but would rely on its proven track records.

He added that the people must understand that the BN's continued struggle was for the good of all races and not for any single race.

MCA was represented by its vice-president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, MIC by president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Gerakan by its deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting, PPP by president Datuk M. Kayveas and IPF by its president Datuk M.G. Pandithan.

**GRAPHIC:** Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections. Through fair or foul weather: Barisan Nasional supporters accompanying the Anak Bukit BN candidate to the nomination centre in heavy rain.

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