

Dr. M in a straight fight against Pas

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ALOR STAR, Wed. —

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet a Pas newcomer, Encik Halim Arshad, in a straight fight for the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is re-contesting the seat. He was returned unopposed in the last general election in 1974.

He and two other National Front State constituency candidates, Encik Osman Aroff and a newcomer, Encik Hanafi Ramli, arrived at the nomination centre in the Kubang Pasu District office Operations Room shortly before 9.30 am.

Encik Osman, a State executive councillor, who is re-contesting the Jitra State constituency, is also in a straight fight against a Pas candidate, Encik Ahmad bin Yusoff, 48, a religious teacher and Pas Kubang Pasu deputy chairman.

Encik Hanafi, 34, who is the Kedah Umno deputy Youth leader and a businessman, is also in a

However, the objection was overruled.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told reporters later that he was confident the Front would return to power again but he pointed out that could not be interpreted that the Front would make a clean sweep.

The question, he said, was the number of seats the Front could win.

Referring to Pas national president Datuk Haji Mohamed Asri bin Muda (who is in a straight fight against Kedah's Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin in the Padang Terap parliamentary constituency)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the people would well understand why Datuk Asri had fled from Kelantan to Kedah to contest the election.

He said not only the Pas leaders were fleeing from Kelantan but even the people had been fleeing from the State to Singapore to find work during the 19 years of Pas rule.

Datuk Asri could bluff the people but he could not do so all the time, he added.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Pas leaders have made all kinds of promises to the people of Kelantan during the election but when they could not fulfil them, they blamed the Federal Government.

"Why promise the people when they could not fulfil them," he said.

He added that Datuk Asri had not accepted his challenge to swear in the mosque that he (Dr Mahathir) had written in his book "As long as the Malays believe in Islam, they will remain backward."

●Pix of Mahathir with his supporters: P5

straight fight against Pas Assemblyman, Encik Ismail Hanafi, 45, for the Tunjang State constituency.

Encik Ismail is Kubang Pasu Pas chairman and is re-contesting the seat for a third term.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's nomination papers were submitted to the returning officer, Wan Said bin Wan Yusoff, by his election agent, Encik Mohamed Zain bin Ahmad.

Earlier, the Deputy Prime Minister, wearing a light yellow Malay dress and songkok, was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah binti Mohamed Ali who drove from their Tki Gajah residence to the Kubang Pasu Umno headquarters in Jitra, six miles away.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir arrived at the centre with about 3,000 supporters including a former

Pas Assemblyman, Encik Hishamuddin bin Ahmad.

A large number of Front supporters wore T-shirts with pictures of Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir and Encik Osman Aroff printed on them.

The three Pas candidates filed their nomination papers at 10 am. They arrived at the centre with about 300 party supporters.

It is understood that the Front election agent objected to some discrepancies in the Pas parliamentary candidate's nomination papers.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had said that if Datuk Asri could prove that he had written that in his book (The Malay Dilemma), he would resign as Deputy Prime Minister.

But if Datuk Asri could not prove it, then he must come forward and admit publicly that he had lied.

"I cannot stop Datuk Asri bluffing the people," he said.

He said Pas in ruling Kelantan for 19 years had created more problems than solving them.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he would be touring the country to help in the election campaign.

His rival, Encik Halim, a businessman, told reporters after filing his papers, that he was confident of winning the election.

He said that Pas was the only party which could solve all the problems especially those faced by the Malays.