

Rural Chinese supporting MCA: Mahathir



DR MAHATHIR

ALOR STAR, Sun. 21 AUG 1978
 Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the National Front victory in the Titi Tinggi state by-election yesterday was evident that as a whole the triumph was not a fluke.

He said it was particularly so with the late Mr Leong Choon Ling having been returned unopposed on nomination day as the incumbent. This shows that the people in the area were supporting the

Front.

The big majority polled by the Front man over the opposition candidates showed that the rural Chinese supported the MCA.

The Front candidate Mr Ng Eng Toon polled 2,399 votes beating his nearest rival, Mr Liew, Sih Yang, of the DAP by a majority of 1,601 votes. Mr Liew polled 788 votes. The Pas candidate, Encik Mustafafa Ahmad, scored 648 votes.

Out of the 5,365 voters, 3,863 voters or 72 per cent cast their votes. There were 58 spoilt votes.

The results were announced by the returning officer, Haji Hashim Aziz, at the counting centre at the multi-purpose centre in Kangar at 10.30 pm.

The first to congratulate Mr Ng was Perlis MCA chairman Mr Tan Thean Choo. He was followed by Mentri Besar Datuk Jaafar Hassan.

Jubilant Front supporters chaired Mr Ng and Datuk Jaafar.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who was on a day's visit, said the opposition parties were given every chance to contest but lost the by-election.

Referring to a proposal to make Padang Besar a free trade zone as a step to attract tourists and improve trade, the Deputy Prime Minister said he would look into the matter.