

—'Fewer defaults due to simpler forms'—

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By KHALID JAAFAR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he is not disappointed with the reduced number of Barisan Nasional candidates returned unopposed.

In the 1982 general election, 12 BN candidates for Parliament and 16 for state seats were returned unopposed. This time a total of 14 BN candidates were returned unopposed.

The smaller number of BN

candidate winning without contest is probably because the nomination form is now simpler and easier to fill.

"We simplified the nomination papers to ensure that the BN candidates do not win merely because opposition candidates' nomination papers are rejected on technical mistakes.

"We know that some opposition candidates are not even proficient in filling the papers," he told reporters after addressing BN election

workers in Jitra, about 20 km from Alor Star.

Dr Mahathir who is Umno president said the victory in the 14 seats could be an indication that the BN will win by a bigger margin in the August 2 and 3 polling.

He said he is confident that the BN will win with more than a two-third majority. As for the opposition they must field candidates in at least 89 parliamentary seats and win them all in order to form a government.

"If they cannot form a government, they should not raised issues such as recession, unemployment and tin crisis because they are not in a position to overcome these problems," he added.

Earlier, when addressing party workers, Dr Mahathir challenged PAS to declare to the public how and where the money the party collected during their ceramahs had been channelled to.

"PAS leaders said the money is not for election pur-

poses. We want to know what the money is for and how it is spent. We want to see the accounts for the money collected under the name of derma jihad (jihad collection)," he asked.

"PAS has been collecting money from the kampung people yet the party has been telling us that the kampung people are poor. If these people are really poor, how could they give donations to PAS?" he asked.