

PM: WE'RE SURE NOW

Ghafar also confident of a landslide victory for the Barisan Nasional

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By KALIMULLAH HASSAN

KUCHING, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Encik Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that they are now more confident of a landslide victory for the Barisan Nasional after a week of campaigning.

Dr Mahathir told a Press conference here that initially when Parliament was dissolved, "the picture was not clear. We did not know the rakyat's feelings then.

"But now, we are confident of the people's support and are confident of getting more than the two-third majority," he said.

In Kuala Lumpur, Encik Ghafar also

expressed confidence that the Barisan would be returned to Parliament with a "more than two-third majority."

"From the looks of the people, it is clear they are satisfied. The children come (when leaders visit constituencies) to shake our hands," Encik Ghafar said after a ground-breaking ceremony at the Air Panas market in Setapak.

"It is a good sign because it means that their parents support the Barisan," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and Barisan chairman, said that his visits and that of Encik Ghafar's to certain areas during the campaign period should not be construed as a sign that the coalition was facing problems in these seats.

"We have to go somewhere. But people conclude that the area we visit is a weak seat.

"Does it mean that if I go to 100 places

all these constituencies are in trouble?" he said.

Later in Penang, Dr Mahathir advised Barisan component parties to set aside their differences and work to ensure a Barisan victory.

He told a gathering of Barisan workers at Komtar that each component party had its own struggle and ideals.

However, he said, the parties should co-operate and resolve their problems through discussions and consensus.

He said it did not matter whether a candidate was from Umno, the MCA or any other component party.

"There is no point in saying a candidate is from Umno or MCA because alone (an individual party) cannot do anything. We want a 100 per cent victory.

"The candidate is not important. The Barisan is," he said.

Dr Mahathir also advised voters of the dangers of falling into the DAP's "deny the two-third majority campaign."

"If everybody says I want to vote this man because I want to deprive the Barisan a two-third majority, then who will vote (the Barisan)," he said.

He asked Barisan campaigners to persuade voters not to be fooled by the DAP or PAS.

"If the DAP and PAS are allowed to form the Government, they will fight each other unlike the Barisan parties which co-operate and resolve problems at forums and through discussions.

"The DAP and PAS can never run the country," he said.

Also present were Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu, Penang Umno chairman Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the State Barisan candidates for the election.