

PM: PEOPLE WILL SUFFER IF PAS COMES TO POWER

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KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made a hectic six-stop visit to the embattled States of Kelantan and Terengganu and told voters — vote wisely, vote Barisan.

Dr Mahathir told voters in the two States that if PAS were allowed to come to power, they would suffer.

However, he said he was confident the Barisan Nasional will win comfortably in both States.

Terengganu Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Amar Wan Mokhtar and Kelantan Mentri Besar Datuk Mohamad Yaakob also predicted clean sweeps for the Barisan despite talk that PAS could perform better than it did in 1982.

Opening a weaving factory in Kuala Terengganu this morning, Dr Mahathir said while PAS had made numerous promises, it had yet to propose concrete plans for the

country's development and progress.

All it has stated so far is that it will set up an Islamic State if it wins, he said.

However, the Barisan Nasional had a 30-year proven track record which the people should consider when marking their ballot papers, he said.

Later in Kota Baru, Dr Mahathir told Barisan election workers not to allow inter-party problems within the coalition to affect their campaigning.

He said they should support any candidate put up by the Barisan irrespective of whether the candidate was from Hamim, the MCA, Umno or any other party.

Dr Mahathir also met representatives from the Chinese community for lunch and later at the Chinese Assembly Hall.

He promised that the Government would fulfil all its promises.

He also declared open the Bachok Umno

building, a road project in Machang and a school in Kuala Krai.

It is learnt that the Barisan, which is facing mainly PAS candidates in both Terengganu and Kelantan, is facing problems in several seats in both States.

Dr Mahathir's advice to Barisan workers to work for the party without worrying who the candidate was is also viewed as being aimed at certain areas where there is dissatisfaction over the choice of candidates.

He advised them not to give up in their efforts to woo the voters in PAS strongholds because "our victory is in the interests of the people and not individuals."

He said it would be meaningless if individual candidates won but the party lost the election and became an opposition in State assemblies or Parliament.

The Prime Minister said the 18-year period in which the Alliance/Barisan was in the

opposition in Kelantan did not benefit the people on the whole.

Dr Mahathir advised those not selected as candidates to continue serving the party and help the Barisan in its campaign.

He said it was not important who was chosen as candidate because it was the party which formulated the policies.

Several Umno leaders in Kelantan admitted that the PAS threat was greater than in 1982 and the party was very likely to improve on its 10 State and four Parliament seats it won then.

In Terengganu, some Umno leaders and candidates felt that PAS could also improve on its 1982 showing when it won five State seats.

However, the leaders in both States felt that the Barisan would still be able to retain its majority.