

BARISAN WILL WIN JOHORE BARU SEAT: MAHATHIR

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MALACCA, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Barisan Nasional will win the Johore Baru by-election and prove that it has the support of the people.

"We will see who is right. I think I am right," he said when asked to comment on Datuk Shahrir's confidence in retaining the seat.

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking to reporters after opening the \$7 million Bank Negara Malacca branch at Jalan Munshi Abdullah here, said the Barisan Nasional's chances are "very good."

However, he said it would not make any difference if Datuk Shahrir won.



"It would not mean anything, just that he wins," he added.

On speculation that there would be a spate of by-elections if Datuk Shahrir won the Johore Baru seat, he said:

"The more such people resign from their seats, the better it is for us."

Dr Mahathir said the elections would be of no use and would not disrupt

government administration.

"So far 900,000 people have joined Umno Baru. Compared to them, these people are a small minority who just want to create trouble.

"They waste public money by quitting their seats. The Government has to spend a lot of money to hold the by-elections.

"They should wait (for

the next general election). We did not ask them to resign from their seats," he added.

On the DAP's open support for Datuk Shahrir in the Johore Baru by-election, he said it was a "cooperation among like-minded people."

"The DAP and Datuk Shahrir have become alike now."

He said it was unlikely to take away the votes from the Barisan Nasional especially from the Chinese and Indian voters.

"The people who support the DAP would continue to support the DAP. They would not support the Barisan," he said.

He said similarly, Barisan Nasional supporters would continue to support the coalition.