

Don't do anything rash, these BN members advised

BATU PAHAT, Wed. — Unhappy Barisan Nasional supporters and those who have not been renominated should not resort to actions which might jeopardise the winning chances of the coalition's candidates, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The BN chairman and Prime Minister said: "The question that should be foremost in the minds of BN supporters is whether we can form an effective Government that would serve the people.

"The focus should not solely be on who the candidates are. Like in all previous elections, the time has come to set aside differences and work towards defeating opposition candidates."

He said the BN had to make sacrifices in certain areas by changing candidates to ensure victory and to establish a strong Government after the polls.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that the BN needed to secure at least a two-thirds majority without which the Government could not be strong and effective.

"I am not trying to intimidate anyone but in countries with weak Governments, riots are common. On the other hand, a strong Government would ensure peace and the people can

live without fear of persecution."

He said the BN was in a strong and solid position to face the electorate, especially since the Opposition was weak.

"We have proven that all allegations by the Opposition are wild and baseless," he said.

Echoing the Prime Minister's sentiments, Malacca BN chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik said those who were unhappy with the party's choice of candidates should realise that it was the party which was being voted in and not individuals.

He said: "The candidate is merely a representative of the party and he can work only because he is in the party. Even I can be replaced. I am able to deliver the goods because of the BN and not because I am Rahim Tamby Chik," he stressed.

In Kuantan, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Khalil Yaakob called on BN members who were not contesting to continue to back their successors to ensure the party was returned to power with a thumping majority.

Tan Sri Haji Khalil, who is the State BN chief, said during every general election a few leaders have to be replaced to pave the way for new blood.