

MAHATHIR-HAMIM  
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JITRA, OCT 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE DECISION OF DATUK SUDIN WAHAB TO USE THE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 SYMBOL IN THEIR CONTEST IN THE KUBANG PASU PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY IN THE GENERAL ELECTION SHOWS THAT THE HAMIM PRESIDENT SUPPORTS THE POLICIES OF THE DAP.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS IS BECAUSE PARTI SEMANGAT 46 IS A MEMBER OF THE +GAGASAN RAKYAT+ (PEOPLE'S MIGHT) PACT WHICH THE DAP HAS ALSO JOINED.

+AS SEMANGAT 46 IS A MEMBER OF THE PACT, IT ONLY MEANS THAT (DATUK) SUDIN WAHAB SUPPORTS (DAP SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK LIM) KIT SIANG,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER HANDING IN HIS NOMINATION PAPERS AT THE KUBANG PASU DISTRICT OFFICE HERE.

PARTI SEMANGAT 46 PRESIDENT TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH YESTERDAY SET UP THE +GAGASAN RAKYAT+ AFTER HAVING FAILED TO GET PAS, HAMIM AND BERJASA INTO THE OPPOSITION FRONT. PAS, HAMIM AND BERJASA ARE MEMBERS OF THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH.

KUBANG PASU RETURNING OFFICER DATUK SYED ZAIN SYED ABDULLAH ANNOUNCED A STRAIGHT FIGHT BETWEEN DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SUDIN IN THE CONSTITUENCY IN THE ELECTION, POLLING FOR WHICH HAS BEEN SET FOR OCT 20/21.

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+I AM A LITTLE CONFUSED OVER THE ACTION OF DATUK SUDIN WAHAB. HE WAS IN PAS, THEN HE JOINED HAMIM ... THIS TIME HE IS A HAMIM CANDIDATE BUT IS USING A (SEMANGAT) 46 SYMBOL. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HE IS FIGHTING FOR,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT OF RETAINING THE SEAT. +THE PEOPLE WILL DETERMINE. I KNOW THAT I WILL WIN. GOD WILLING.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT PAS APPARENTLY DID NOT SUPPORT ENCIK LIM KIT SIANG BUT IT ACTUALLY SUPPORTED THE DAP.

HE SAID PAS HAD FIELDDED CANDIDATES AGAINST THOSE FROM THE DAP BUT THEN THIS WAS ONLY TO FOOL THE PEOPLE.

MEANWHILE, KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI OSMAN AROFF IS CHALLENGED BY ENCIK ABDUL RASHID MOHAMAD SALLEH OF SEMANGAT 46 IN THE JITRA STATE SEAT WHILE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR DATUK HAJI HANAFI RAMLI IS CHALLENGED BY PAS' ENCIK ABU KASSIM ABDULLAH IN THE TUNJANG STATE SEAT. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI OSMAN SAID SEMANGAT 46 FIELDDED DATUK SUDIN IN KUBANG PASU TO +SACRIFICE+ HIM IN THE ELECTION.

HE SAID PAS WAS UNWILLING TO CONTEST THERE BECAUSE IT HAD LOST SEVERAL TIMES.

DATUK SERI OSMAN SAID THE PRIME MINISTER IS EXPECTED TO WIN EASILY BECAUSE THE CONSTITUENTS WILL NOT ACCEPT AN OPPOSITION CANDIDATE, MORE SO AN INDIVIDUAL FROM OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUENCY.

DATUK SUDIN SAID IT WAS HIS CHOICE TO BE FIELDDED IN KUBANG PASU. HE SAID HE USED THE SEMANGAT 46 SYMBOL BECAUSE IT WAS MORE POPULAR THAN HAMIM'S.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF LOGGING IRREGULARITIES IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

KUBANG PASU HAS 52,341 VOTERS. IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IN 1986, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DEFEATED THE PAS CANDIDATE, DR AZIZAN ISMAIL, BY A MAJORITY OF 15,298 VOTES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS CONTESTING THE SEAT FOR THE FIFTH TIME. -- BERNAMA