

DR M: I'M CONFIDENT CHONG EU WILL WIN

(P)

S 12.10.90



ALOR STAR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that Penangites will back Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu and re-elect him to the Padang Kota state seat.

The Prime Minister said this was because Dr Lim was very mature in politics and administration.

He said DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang should not have challenged Dr Lim so that Penangites could pick both of them.

"The people of Penang will lose out greatly if Dr Lim is not re-elected. He has such vast experience.

"It looks like the DAP is out to create problems and disunity in Penang with this contest. Anyway, we welcome the fight," he told newsmen

after filing his nomination papers at the district office today to defend his Kubang Pasu seat.

Dr Mahathir is being challenged by Hamim president Datuk Sudin Wahab who is using the Semangat 46 symbol.

He was accompanied by over 1,000 supporters, including Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff, to the nomination centre from the Kubang Pasu Umno headquarters about half a kilo-

metre away.

Dr Mahathir handed his nomination papers to returning officer Datuk Syed Razak Syed Abdullah at 9.40am, while Datuk Sudin, a former state executive councillor and two-term PAS Assemblyman for Langgar-Limbong, submitted his at 9.50am.

Both leaders smiled and shook hands. There were no objections at the end of the objection period at 12.30pm.

Asked whether the

Barisan line-up was "dynamic," Dr Mahathir replied: "Our line-ups have always been dynamic. That is why we are now number five among 130 developing countries. It is a result of the Barisan's dynamic administration."

He said there had been a "progressive increase" in the quality of Barisan candidates.

"More and more highly-qualified people have come forward (to contest).

"The only problem for the Barisan and Umno is that we have too many (to choose from)."

Dr Mahathir said the opposition Gagasan Rakyat was a ploy to hoodwink voters into believing that PAS and DAP had no pact.

"They say they have no co-operation but they still

want to replace the Government. How can they do this without an understanding?"

He said the Opposition's call for a two-party coalition system no longer existed with the forming of Gagasan Rakyat, which consists of the DAP, Semangat, PRM and the IPF.

Dr Mahathir said he would retain his Kubang Pasu seat, which he first won in 1974.

He said: "Datuk Sudin claims to be from Hamim but he is using the Semangat symbol. Before, he was in PAS and then Hamim. Now he appears to be in Semangat 46."

Datuk Sudin said he was confident of getting more than half the votes.

"I am using the Semangat symbol because of the party's popularity."