

Dr M first to file papers

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JITRA, Thurs. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the first candidate to file his nomination papers at the Kubang Pasu nomination centre soon after it opened at 9am today.

Dr Mahathir, who is recontesting the parliamentary seat of Kubang Pasu in a straight fight against Hamim chief Datuk Sudin Wahab, arrived at 9.35am with Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff, who

is recontesting the Jitra State seat. They were accompanied by thousands of Barisan supporters.

Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Haji Osman immediately filed their nomination papers at 9.40am, followed by Datuk Haji Hanafi Ramli who will defend the Tunjang State seat.

Datuk Sudin arrived at the centre five minutes later accompanied by several hundred supporters, most of them carrying the

Semangat 46 and Pas banners.

The Hamim chief is contesting the parliamentary seat on a Semangat 46 ticket.

There was only one objection and this came from Semangat 46 candidate for the Jitra State seat Abdul Rashid Mohamad Salleh who was dissatisfied because the initial "M" was missing from the name of Datuk Seri Haji Osman's proposer Ali bin Yusof.

The protest was however rejected by returning officer Datuk Syed Zain Abdullah.

The Menteri Besar is involved in a straight fight with Encik Abdul Rashid while Datuk Haji Hanafi faces Pas candidate Abu Kassim bin L. Abdullah.

Dr Mahathir's candidacy was proposed by Ismail Awang and seconded by Kubang Pasu MCA chairman Chong Kim Wah.