

# PM BARES DIRTY TACTICS

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## Barisan supporters prevented from voting: Mahathir

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Staff appointed by the Election Commission in several states resorted to various tactics to stop Barisan Nasional supporters from voting in Sunday's general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

He said this had contributed to the defeat of the Barisan candidates in Kelantan, Terengganu, Perak and Pahang.

The Prime Minister was speaking to newsmen after an Umno Supreme Council meeting at the party headquarters here.

Dr Mahathir said he received complaints from several Barisan candidates and workers

that the coalition's supporters were made to wait for such a long time that they became bored and eventually did not vote at all.

"Some voters, including Umno officials, were told that their names were not on the electoral rolls when in fact they were," he said.

The names of some orang asli were also deliberately overlooked by the staff, he added.

The Barisan chairman and Umno president said there were cases in which unofficial electoral rolls were used to mislead Barisan supporters.

Dr Mahathir stressed that he was not blaming the commission.

"It was not the fault of the commission. It was the work of district office staff appointed

by the commission. They were openly helping the opposition," he said.

He said Umno would study the conduct of these staff and prepare a report.

Dr Mahathir said there were also cases of opposition supporters forcibly stopping people from voting.

He cited an incident in Terengganu where, he said, more than 1,000 opposition supporters surrounded the house of a former elected representative from the Barisan.

He said the crowd prevented Barisan supporters who had gathered at the house from going to the polls.

Dr Mahathir said even the police were helpless in trying to get the surrounded Barisan supporters to a polling station because of the large opposition crowd.