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MAHATHIR WANTS BN TO GIVE ATTENTION TO BY-ELECTIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Barisan Nasional to concentrate on the series of by-elections being contested by candidates from the ruling coalition.

"I call upon Umno and Barisan Nasional to be united and give full support to their candidates," he told a news conference at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang upon arriving from a week-long visit to three African countries.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and several other cabinet ministers and Umno leaders.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN and Umno president, wants party members to give their backing to former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar who has been named as the new Menteri Besar of Selangor.

Abu Hassan, the former MP for Kuala Selangor, will contest the Permatang state assembly seat while the assemblyman who vacated the Permatang seat, Datuk Jamaluddin Adnan, will contest the Kuala Selangor seat. The two by-elections will be held on May 29.

Other coming by-elections are for the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat (May 17) Kemena state seat in Sarawak (May 24 and 25) and Repah state seat in Negeri Sembilan (May 29). -- BERNAMA

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