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Ahmad Zahid thanks PM for chance of redemption

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Bagan Datoh incumbent MP Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi will translate the continued faith Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has in him into victory for Barisan Nasional in his parliamentary seat.

The former Umno Youth leader said today he was grateful to Dr Mahathir for retaining him in the same constituency which he won in 1995.

"The PM kept his word that those who were committed and loyal to the party would be chosen to stand, irrespective of their background.

"His continued faith in me will surely encourage me to retain the constituency for Umno and the BN," Ahmad Zahid, who was associated with former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Anwar Ibrahim, said.

On whether he could obtain a big majority in the coming polls, he said he would "work hard and work smart" to woo voters for the BN.

In the 1995 election, he obtained a majority of 14,850 votes.

"The people of Bagan Datoh have always voted for the BN, and dismissed any electoral bids by the Opposition.

"In fact, they are not influenced by the issues raised by the Opposition."

He said the BN machinery would work hard to canvass for votes and rebut allegations by the Opposition during the nine-day campaign period.

"I am confident of winning, and intend to obtain a slightly higher number of votes to translate the PM's continued faith in me."

On his message to his voters, he said: "I will continue to do all the good work that I have been doing to bring more development to Bagan Datoh."

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