

05 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Azizah

AZIZAH WELCOMED TO CHALLENGE ME, SAYS PM

PAPAR, March 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he welcomed the proposed challenge from the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for his parliamentary seat in the next general election.

Making his first ever comment on plans by Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail to stand in the Kubang Pasu constituency, Dr Mahathir said: " I welcome Wan Azizah's challenge".

" But what could she do (if she wins). She can't do anything," said the prime minister who made the brief comment while campaigning for Barisan Nasional candidates in the March 12 and 13 Sabah state election.

Wan Azizah has reportedly said she is contemplating standing in Kubang Pasu in Kedah to challenge the prime minister.

The prime minister referred to the federal government's allocation of over RM800 million to set up Universiti Malaysia Sabah, the state's first university here.

Dr Mahathir said even the long-established Universiti Utara Malaysia in his own home state of Kedah had so far only got RM400 million.

" This shows Datuk Seri Najib (Education Minister) loves Sabah more. But can Dr Wan Azizah come up with any money to help the university in Kedah," he said.

--BERNAMA

AU