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BN on alert for changes in voters' addresses

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Barisan Nasional election machinery has been put on alert to look out for changes in voters' addresses when the electoral rolls for new voters are displayed for public inspection in September.

Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said today that the coalition had information on attempts by Pas to move known BN supporters out of "marginal areas" and move their own supporters in.

"This is to ensure that their strength increases. It is a naughty act because the change is not known to the voter and is done to weaken BN," Mohamed told reporters after a meeting with State BN secretaries here.

The two-hour meeting, held at the BN headquarters, was attended by 13 State BN secretaries.

Mohamed said the action by Pas was widespread as the opposition party felt it had a chance to secure power this time around.

Asked in which States the changes were made, he said they were mainly confined to the northern States.

On what proof BN had that this was happening, he said that information would be forwarded when objections were raised.

Mohamed also said that in line with the BN constitution, there would be a new line-up of BN division chairmen for the 192 parliamentary constituencies.

He said a register had been forwarded to the State BN chairmen for their endorsement before it was sent to the national BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his decision.

Mohamed said there would not be many changes except for a few requests made by component parties to have their members appointed.

"The appointment will last for two years from Aug 1 this year till July 31, 2001," he said, adding that the same exercise would apply for State BN secretaries.

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