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PM: We can take Kelantan

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Barisan Nasional's chances of defeating Pas in Kelantan in the general election were bright.

"We are now preparing our strategies to ensure victory in the State," said Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman and Umno president.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a two-hour meeting with members of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee, the Prime Minister said the BN was confident of winning more than half the seats in the State.

There are 14 parliamentary and 43 State seats. The BN held seven parliamentary and 18 State seats before the dissolution of Parliament Thursday. The rest were under Pas.

Dr Mahathir said the BN would contest in all seats in the State.

On whether the BN had selected the candidates for the various constituencies in Kelantan, he said he would inform the Press later.

He said it had also not been decided who would be appointed Menteri Besar under the BN Government in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said he was very happy with the election preparations in the State.

Also present were State Umno chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, his deputy Datuk Annuar Musa and Supreme Council member Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Tengku Razaleigh said he had received the full list of proposed candidates from the respective divisions and would tabulate it before handing it to Dr Mahathir to decide.

He said the BN's chances of recapturing Kelantan, which has been under Pas rule since 1990, were very bright.

He said Pas Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's statement that a non-Muslim could be Prime Minister had caused discomfort among the people in and outside Kelantan.

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