

Dr M happy with BN campaign

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SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was satisfied with the efforts taken by coalition party members to woo the support of the Ketari electorate.

He said the campaigning was proceeding well and was confident the people would support Barisan *candidate Yum Ah Ha who is being challenged by DAP's Choong Siew Onn.

Dr Mahathir took a swipe at PAS, saying the party was forced to support DAP because the latter was "against an Islamic state".

"DAP does not like an

Islamic state but PAS supports DAP which means PAS is against an Islamic state," he told reporters after launching the Favelle Favco crane factory here.

He added that PAS even condemned the Barisan's concept of an Islamic country but had no qualms about supporting a party which was against the Islamic state.

In Bentong, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Government would not restrict the rights of any ethnic group in Malaysia or stifle their languages and customs,

"The Chinese community

should not listen to rumours spread by irresponsible individuals or groups because the Barisan Government is committed to protecting the rights of all Malaysians," he added.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said this when opening the new RM1mil SRJK (C) Perting hall.

In his second trip to the DAP's stronghold, Abdullah also attended a 2,000 people dinner in the hall.

Choong and about 15 other local party leaders, including DAP Ketari by-election deputy director Cheong Koon Kam, were also present at the dinner.