

Come out in full force to cast votes, urges PM

STAR - 6 JUL 2002

ALOR STAR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the people in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state seats to come out in full force to cast their votes in the by-elections on July 18.

He said some Barisan Nasional and Umno supporters had not voted in the past because of the candidate chosen to represent them.

"You should not think about the candidate as only the Barisan Nasional government can deliver its promises to the people.

"The people in Pendang and Anak Bukit should choose a representative who can provide better services to them and not just empty talk," he

told thousands of Barisan and Umno supporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas yesterday.

Dr Mahathir also cautioned Barisan and Umno members against using crude words during their campaigning.

"We must uphold Islamic teachings which tell us to be kind to others. Even if we have differences, we should not use crude words against them because if they did something wrong, God will punish them," he said.

On Umno's list of potential candidates, Dr Mahathir said he has seen the list but could not reveal it as it was a party secret.

Asked if the by-elections will have an effect on the next

general election, Dr Mahathir said he did not know but added: "I am of the opinion that the rakyat support Umno and the government more now."

"The effects from past events have gone because those who had strongly opposed us are not opposing us anymore." Without naming anyone, he also said some people always pushed for the upholding of the rule of law but when the law was applied on them, they did not want it so.

"I, myself will accept if there was any law that I have broken. The law will be enforced on me. I cannot avoid just because I'm the Prime Minister."