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`Show gratitude by voting for BN'

PENANG, Thurs. - An Umno supreme council member has urged Malaysians, especially the Malays, to show their appreciation of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's sacrifices and contributions for the nation by ensuring a Barisan Nasional victory in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit State by-elections.

Datuk Khalid Yunus, who is also Deputy Information Minister, said BN victories in both constituencies would be one of the best ways to say "thank you" to the Prime Minister.

He also said Malaysians, especially the Malays, should remain committed to greater peace and prosperity for the nation.

"All of us must remain united and ensure victory for the BN candidates," he said after attending a talk at the community hall in Jalan Patani here last night.

Also present at the event, jointly organised by the Rural Development Ministry and the Jelutong Kemas, were State Executive Councillor Datuk Azhar Ibrahim, State Information Department director M. Periasamy and several community leaders.

Khalid also said continued support from the Malays was essential to ensure a smooth transition of the country's leadership.

"Everyone has accepted Dr Mahathir's resignation with a heavy heart.

"There is no better way to say `thank you' to the Prime Minister than ensuring BN victories in the by-elections," he said.

He said the Malay community should also be pro-active, not be over-dependent on government aid and strive for excellence in education and business.

"The rest of the world are watching us during this transition period.

"We cannot afford to fail, so let's strive for greater heights together," he said.