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Najib-Election

ACID TEST AWAITS UMNO AND BN IN KEDAH, SAYS NAJIB

PEKAN, June 29 (Bernama) -- Next month's by-elections for the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state constituencies in Kedah will be a major test for Umno, said its vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"It enables us to see how far the political rehabilitation (regaining support for Umno) has become reality and how far it can be translated in the by-elections".

He told reporters this after opening the Koperasi Pekebun Kecil Pekan general meeting here today.

Najib said all Umno members must work hard to win the confidence and support from voters to ensure victory for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the two by-elections.

The Election Commission (EC) today fixed July 10 as nomination day and July 18 as polling day for the by-elections in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state constituencies.

Both seats became vacant after the death of PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor last Sunday.

Asked on whether Umno and BN would be affected by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to step down from all his party and government posts October next year, Najib said despite his decision to quit Dr Mahathir had named his successor to ensure a smooth transition and also called on party members to work and cooperate as a team.

"Hence, it is important for us to prove this by winning the by-elections," he said.

Asked on whether voters in the two constituencies would sympathise with PAS over the death of its president, Najib said they should take into account their future and that of the nation.

-- BERNAMA

MS MAI ZUL