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BN candidates to be known after Dr M meets panels

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KUANTAN, Sun. - Umno's candidates for the Anak Bukit State and Pendang parliamentary seats in the July 18 by-elections will only be known after party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has heard views from the Kedah Umno liaison committee and divisional committees.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today this was in accordance with Clause 10 of the Umno constitution, which empowers the supreme council to choose electoral candidates following discussions with the respective State liaison and divisional committee.

"We have not decided on the candidates.

"We still have 10 days before nomination and there is still time for us to decide," he added.

He also said Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is heading the BN election machinery in the by-elections, would make some recommendations to Dr Mahathir, based on the analysis conducted by the party in both areas.

He added that Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib had gone to Pendang and Anak Bukit to conduct an analysis and the results had shown an encouraging level of support from the people for Umno.

"If we are able to increase our efforts I believe the support would grow."

Khalil said Umno was confident of winning the two seats as the people's awareness of Umno had increased throughout the country, including in Pendang and Anak Bukit.

He said Umno did not underestimate the people's support for Pas but it had the strength to ensure support for the party.

Khalil, who was met by reporters after opening the new Tadika Kemas Kampung Selamat, here, said Abdullah had outlined the movement of the BN machinery in Pendang and Anak Bukit, including the areas to be visited by BN leaders.

He said the BN campaign would include house-to-house visits and ceramah on political issues.

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