

01 JUL 2002  
Syed Razak-Candidates  
BN CANDIDATES MUST BE CHARISMATIC

ALOR SETAR, July 1 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) has made charismatic leadership one of the main criteria for its candidates for the Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections on July 18.

BN candidates should also be able to serve the people well and be accepted by the public and voters, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said today.

He said the state BN had drawn up a list of prospective candidates for submission to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The names will be handed to Dr Mahathir when he returns from overseas soon and the candidates will be announced after both leaders have given their agreement," he told reporters after meeting political secretaries to Menteri Besar here today.

Nomination day for the by-elections is July 10.

The seats fell vacant following the death of PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor on June 23.

Syed Razak, who is also state BN chairman, said he was grateful that there was no "crisis in picking candidates" for the by-elections.

Syed Razak said that in the last general election there were a few cases of certain people in the party questioning BN's choice of candidates, an action which had undermined the party.

There had also been some lobbying for certain people to be picked as candidates, he said.

"Now they no longer ask who the BN candidate is. They leave it to the central and state leaderships to decide on the candidates. This shows the strength of BN in facing the by-elections this time around," he said.

-- BERNAMA  
MZM VRM YBY