

03 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Pendang

DR M CONFIDENT BN CAN FACE OPPOSITION IN PENDANG, ANAK BUKIT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) --The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today expressed confidence that the Barisan Nasional will regain the Pendang parliamentary seat and the Anak Bukit state seat in Kedah from the opposition in the up-coming by-elections for the two seats.

"We can meet the opposition party even though this is an opposition area," he said on arrival at the Subang air force base after a brief vacation in Europe.

Dr Mahathir is the BN Chairman. The Election Commission (EC) has fixed July 10 for nomination of candidates and July 18 as polling day for both seats. The by-elections are being held following the death of PAS President Datuk Fadzil Noor who was the incumbent in both seats.

The Prime Minister who was asked about election preparations when he had just arrived from overseas obliged reporters by expressing confidence that the BN was ready to face the election.

"I am sure the party election machinery is ready and party policies have not met with problems," he said.

In the General Election of 1999, Fadzil beat the BN candidate Datuk Othman Abdul with a 2,934-vote majority in Pendang.

In Anak Bukit he obtained a 1,840-vote majority against the BN's Datuk Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin.

-- BERNAMA

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