

02 NOV 2002

DR M FIRM ABOUT RESIGNING AND NOT CONTESTING ELECTION

PENANG, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated that he is firm in his decision to resign as the Prime Minister next year and also not to contest the next general election.

Dr Mahathir said since he had made up his mind and announced his decision, he would not change his stand.

"I cannot waver. Once I have made a decision, I will see it through," he told reporters after opening the Penang Barisan Nasional (BN) Convention at the Balik Pulau Sports Complex here.

He said this when asked to comment on a recent resolution adopted by the Pasir Mas Umno Division in Kelantan rejecting his intention not to contest the next polls and urging him to defend his Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat.

Dr Mahathir said if he were to change his decision and give in to calls to stay on, he would be labelled as playing politics.

"I have decided to resign and therefore I will not contest," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SA ZU YBY