

17 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Voters

PENDANG PARLIAMENTARY AND ANAK BUKIT STATE BY-ELECTIONS VITAL, SAYS PM

PUTRAJAYA, July 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised voters going to the polls tomorrow in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections to elect candidates based on their capabilities and not because they dislike someone from the other party.

He said that it would be most unfortunate if candidates were elected not because of their capability to serve but based on hatred.

Stressing that the by-elections were vital to determine the future of the people in both constituencies, Dr Mahathir said that he hoped that they would elect candidates based on the benefits that could be derived by the constituents.

"I hope that the voters will vote wisely to ensure a better future by electing candidates from the ruling party which can bring progress to the Pendang and Anak Bukit constituencies," he said in his message in conjunction with the polling day.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) and PAS are contesting in a straight fight in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections.

Dr Mahathir said that he had given the advice in view of the deep sense of hatred among supporters of the opposition party as it had been instilled since their childhood days.

"This will prevent them from exercising their ability to choose the credible candidates as they have been influenced by this feeling of hatred," he said.

The prime minister said that even though the results of the by-elections would not determine which party would form the government and which the opposition, it was still vital for the people in the constituencies.

He said that candidates not from the ruling party were more often unable to fulfil their promises while candidates from the ruling party would be able to, even though they may not be able to carry out all that they had promised.

From BN's track record as the ruling party, he said, it had been proven that the government had brought much progress and changes in Pendang and Anak Bukit.

"I was previously the elected representative for Pendang and I know that the condition at that time was very bad but now we can see so much progress through the efforts of the state and federal governments," he said.

The prime minister also hoped that the balloting process would run smoothly in line with the practice of democracy in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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