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By-Election-Radical

REJECT PAS LED BY A RADICAL, CHAUVINISTIC LEADER, SAYS MAT TAIB

ALOR SETAR, June 28 (Bernama) -- Voters in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state seats should reject Pas because the party is now being led by a radical and chauvinistic leader who practised racist policies, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said today.

He said Acting Pas president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang possessed such features unlike Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno leaders who are moderates.

Pas under Hadi's leadership portrayed a harsh and aggressive image with no regard for public opinion including for women and other races, he told a press conference after meeting Kedah Umno leaders, here.

"Hadi projected a radical image not only in the way he dresses but also in his policies," said Muhammad, who is also coordinator for the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections in Kedah.

He said the by-elections would be the right time for the voters to send a clear message of rejecting Pas.

The Election Commission is expected to announce the dates for the by-elections tomorrow. The by-elections are held following the death of the elected representative Datuk Fadzil Noor, who is also Pas president, who died on Sunday.

Muhammad said the BN and Umno would convey the message on the progress brought by the two entities to the people and country as compared to Pas.

Replying to a question, he said the BN and Umno was not concerned if the by-elections were held simultaneously or separately because the election machinery was ready to swing into action.

Asked if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's resignation plans and the death of Fadzil would lead to sympathy votes from voters, he said it would to a certain degree.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, who was also present at the press conference, said the Kedah BN had launched "Ops Ambik Balik" to wrest the two seats captured by Pas in the 1999 general election.

-- BERNAMA

JM VRM TS