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Rival parties hold briefing sessions for party workers

ALOR STAR, Sun. - Nothing is too early when it comes to election campaigns. Already party flags, posters and banners are up in Pendang and Anak Bukit where by-elections are set for July 18.

Officially, campaigning is only after nomination day on Wednesday but the election mood is already prevalent.

Not only is the air feverish in the two constituencies. The mood has also caught up in the State capital where party leaders and campaigners are staying in hotels and rented premises.

Residents are bumping into many unfamiliar faces and vehicles with registration numbers from outside Kedah.

Some Umno leaders and supporters who arrived on Friday to welcome Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport had also stayed back to help in the Barisan Nasional campaign because of the weekend.

The BN Youth machinery was activated by BN Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein in Paya Mat Insun, Pendang before some 3,000 election workers.

Puteri Umno has also launched their campaign and their foster children programme while today, Wanita Umno will activate its machinery.

The opposition too has not been keeping quiet and has shown equal zeal in beating BN to get to the voters first.

The Opposition Front Youth met last Wednesday to discuss strategies, identify issues and work distribution.

More than 2,000 Pas Youth members attended the meeting.