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Mahathir-Candidate

CANDIDATE FOR KUBANG PASU MUST HAVE STRONG CREDENTIALS

JITRA, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who had indicated on numerous occasions that he would not defend his Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat in the coming general election, said today that the candidate chosen to replace him must have strong credentials.

He said the criteria needed were willingness to work hard to assist in the development of the constituents, close rapport with the rakyat, free from corrupt practices and sincerity.

Saying that he would continue to serve the people of Kubang Pasu even when he was no longer their elected representative, the former prime minister added that the strong credentials were necessary to ensure efficient and transparent administration.

"I feel that these are the criteria necessary for the candidate wishing to stand for election in Kubang Pasu," he told reporters after giving away Hari Raya goodies to 60 patients at Jitra Hospital, here today.

He was accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Asked on the possibility of a tussle for candidacy for the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency, Dr Mahathir, who is also Kubang Pasu Umno division head, said there would always be a tussle whenever a seat was vacated.

"But I appeal to everyone to support the candidate decided by the top leadership. My advice is that the tussle should not lead to anger to the extent that they do not support the candidate that has been chosen," he said.

He said the tussle for candidacy could give adverse effects to the party and thus should be avoided.

He also took the opportunity to wish Selamat Hari Raya to the people of Kubang Pasu who had given much support to him and his wife.

-- BERNAMA

MZM AIN LYN AO