

14/03/2004

Dr M turns up to show support for BN

JITRA, Sat. - Once a politician, always a politician.

And like a true politician, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad flew down from Kuala Lumpur this morning just to be with the rakyat on nomination day and to show his support for Barisan Nasional and its candidates.

Dr Mahathir, the former Kubang Pasu MP, arrived with his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Kemunting about 9am to join a procession of 3,000 supporters accompanying the candidates to the nomination centre.

Standing in Dr Mahathir's place in Kubang Pasu is Datuk Mohd Johari Baharum, who is the first political secretary to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The two BN candidates standing for the state seats are Prof Datuk Dr Othman Ishak (Jitra) and Khalidah Adibah Ayob (Bukit Kayu Hitam).

A slight commotion occurred at the entrance of the nomination centre, which is the district office, when Dr Mahathir was denied entry into the premises. BN supporters had expected him to be allowed in.

But in the end, like other supporters, Dr Mahathir waited at Dewan Wawasan, a stone's throw from the district office, for the announcement of the candidates.

Dr Mahathir had contested the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat in seven general elections (since 1974) and had won every one of them. The last was in 1999 when he defeated Subky Latif of Pas with a majority of 10,138 votes.