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Love for Dr M will lead to big BN win

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ALOR STAR, Fri. - Kedah Umno leaders are confident that the people here will transform their love and appreciation for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad into a mass wave of votes for Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

They think the rhetoric of Pas candidates would not measure up to Dr Mahathir's contributions to the nation and his international stature.

The leaders said Pas was arrogant and suffered from self-delusion when it came to taking over Kedah as they put their faith in symbols and rhetoric rather than substantial service to the rakyat.

Kedah Umno liaison secretary Datuk Abdul Rahman Ariffin said Pas' fixation on candidates rather than grassroots work and service in their constituencies would be their downfall.

"What is important is a party's contribution to the rakyat and not merely their candidates.

"What has Pas, compared with Dr Mahathir, done for this country in education, social-welfare and uplifting the status of the people?" he said.

He was commenting on Pas information chief Datuk Dr Haron Din's statement yesterday that Kedah voters would swing to Pas after Dr Mahathir ended his term as the Kubang Pasu Member of Parliament in the next general election.

Haron, who will lead Pas' campaign to wrest Kedah and Perlis, had said he might contest in Kedah and Perlis.

Abdul Rahman described Haron's statement as "arrogant", saying that Haron's (who is from Perlis) intention to contest in Kedah was reflective of Pas' misplaced faith in 'drop-in' candidates. "These candidates appear only near the elections with their rhetoric. But once they win, they are not heard of anymore," he said.

Kubang Pasu Umno secretary Shamsuddin Ahmad said the people of Kubang Pasu would never forget Dr Mahathir and would still think that he was there leading them.

"We will reduce Pas' majority next time. There are no issues for them to exploit, and the people of Kubang Pasu hold dear to Dr Mahathir and would vote for the candidate of his choice," he said.

He said Pas could not hoodwink the people here as they were mature and could differentiate between those who had served the country and those who merely offered rhetoric.