

Najib: PM need not visit Machap to boost votes

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MALACCA: Whether Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi pays a visit to Machap or not should not be used as a yardstick for a bigger win for Barisan Nasional, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"It is not a government policy that the Prime Minister visit an area where a by-election is held because the people are confident of his leadership without him having to go to

the ground," he said.

"It is now up to us to work hard to ensure that Barisan wins," he said.

Najib said Abdullah did not go to the ground in the Batu Talam by-election and yet Barisan won and the opposition lost its deposit.

He was commenting on a DAP statement that its candidate would not lose his deposit and Barisan would not get a higher majority this time unless Abdullah visited Machap.

"The opposition is just trying to challenge us. That's normal," Najib

said after meeting Felda Tun Ghafar Hutan Percha settlers.

On the DAP working with Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) to win Malay votes, Najib said it was not a new strategy as the same partnership was forged during the 2004 general election.

Barisan Nasional Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said he expected the DAP candidate to lose his deposit as the cooperation of Barisan members was strong.

The Star - 10/4/2007

"With the high-spirited crowd I see here and the co-operation among the component parties, I am confident that the majority votes for Barisan will increase this round and hopefully the DAP loses its deposit," he said while visiting the area.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Liow Tiong Lai, who was present, said the DAP would not receive much support as they can "only talk without taking action."

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng had said that its candidate

would not lose his deposit as long as only Najib and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam campaigned in the area.

"If the PM can go to Pengkalan Pasir to campaign for the by-election there, he should also come to Machap," he said.

On the 700 former DAP members in Kulai who joined the MCA, Lim said it was a performance staged by Barisan. He said the party had only 300 members in Kulai, 200 of whom were active.