

# BN ready for challenge

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## DPM: PKR's plan to contest shows opposition 'playing politics'

**PEKAN:** Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Parti Keadilan Rakyat's intention to contest the Machap state seat was an example of the opposition "playing politics."

He said the opposition had neither any clear stand nor consistency in their actions.

"Why do they want to contest now, when they had boycotted the Batu Talam by-election earlier (in January)?"

"They are always out to create uncertainty and confuse the people," he told reporters after attending a gathering of village security and development committees here yesterday.

He added, however, that if the people were strong in their conviction the opposition parties would not succeed.

Najib said the Barisan Nasional was ready to face any challenger from the opposition parties.

"I do not foresee any problem," he said.

Najib reminded voters that the opposition had called for a boycott of the Batu Talam by-election and had urged people not to come out to vote.

"Their ploy failed as there was a high number of voters. In the end the challenger lost his deposit," he said.

In that by-election, Barisan candi-



**Chit-chat:** Najib talking to village security and development committee representatives in Pekan yesterday.

date Abdul Aziz Kiram defeated independent Ng Chee Pang in a landslide victory which saw a voter turnout of 67.32%.

In Sungai Petani, Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin predicted that PAS would also boycott the Machap by-election.

However, he did not rule out the possibility of the party working with the DAP and other opposition parties.

PAS was not relevant to the country's plural society and would make a wise decision not to contest in Machap, he told reporters after presenting prizes for a swimming competition among children of servicemen from the Sixth Brigade camp and orphans from the Che Bema orphanage.

"In Kelantan, PAS can still dream of being in power. In

Terengganu, we cannot stop them from continuing their dream to wrest the state after it was won by Barisan in the last general election," he said.

He believed, however, PAS would not win in Malacca.

"They can fantasise. That's the only thing they can do as they cannot adapt themselves with the mainstream," he added.