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## Dr M turns up to see son file papers

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**ALOR STAR:** For eight general elections, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had gone to a nomination centre to file his papers as a candidate.

Yesterday he turned up at the SK Ayer Hitam nomination centre, this time as an observer – to see his youngest son, Datuk Mukhriz, file his candidacy for the Jerlun parliamentary seat.

It was an emotional moment for the first-time candidate as he watched his 82-year-old father wait under the sun with hundreds of supporters.

“It is a reversal of roles. I used to follow him on election campaigns, and now he is with me. It’s a proud moment for me,” added Mukhriz after filing his nomination papers at 9.22am.

Throughout the nomination and objection period, he made calls and sent SMSes from inside the centre to those who were standing with his father outside in the school compound.

“I wanted to make sure that he was comfortable because the weather was very hot,” said Mukhriz, 43, who heads Umno Youth’s international affairs bureau.

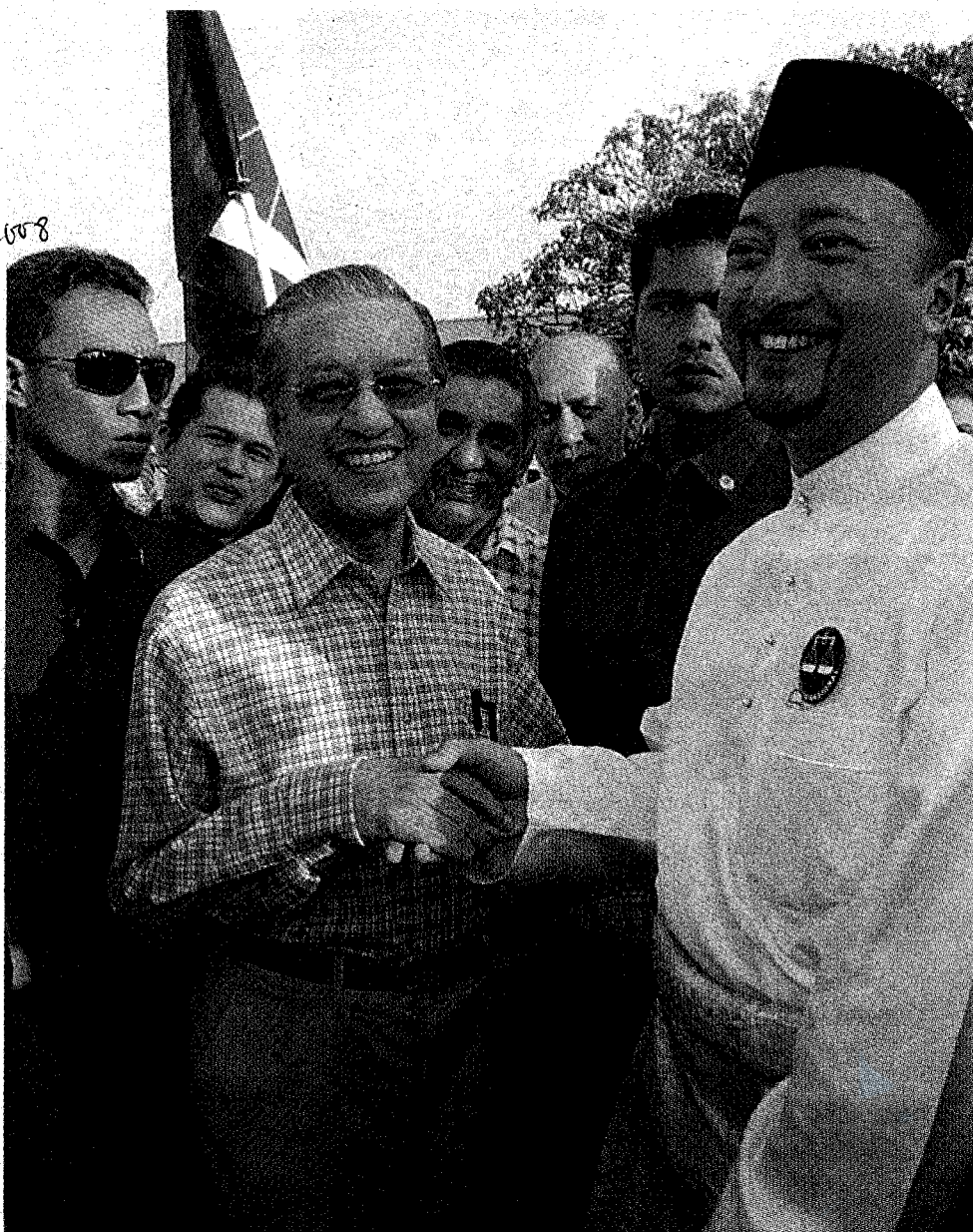
Mukhriz’s mother, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who could not make it because of a back problem, sent her son an encouraging SMS.

He rushed out to hug his father soon after returning officer Md Zuki Siru announced the names of the candidates for the constituency.

Mukhriz, who will face Idris Ahmad of PAS, said he was “optimistic” about his chances.

Dr Mahathir said he would campaign for his son but would not be “making speeches”.

“In 2004, I helped campaign in all the states except Terengganu. This year I will only be in Jerlun,” he said, adding that his advice to his son was to “work hard”.



**Dad’s blessings:** Mukhriz shaking hands with his father Dr Mahathir as he arrives at SMK Ayer Hitam to submit his nomination papers in Alor Star yesterday.