

Dr M: Isa not the right

candidate

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'Umno's image will be affected
if he contests for Bagan Pinang'

PUTRAJAYA: Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad should not be nominated as candidate for the Bagan Pinang state by-election, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Umno's image would be affected and it would be regarded as not being serious in fighting money politics if the party chose a candidate already found guilty of political corruption.

"Even if he can win there, we have to consider what the whole of Malaysia thinks of Umno," he said yesterday.

He was asked to comment on talk that Isa, the Teluk Kemang Umno division head, was among those listed as candidates for the Bagan Pinang by-election.

Dr Mahathir said although the Teluk Kemang Umno division wanted Isa to contest, it must remember that the by-election involved not only representatives from the division.

The people would view him as representing Umno nationwide and reflecting Umno's stand.

"One can win and become Umno president but it does not mean that he can win elections," he said.

Isa was suspended for three years from June 24, 2005 for money politics in the 2004 Umno elections. He was originally suspended for six years or two terms but it was reduced upon appeal.

Nomination for the Bagan

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DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Pinang by-election has been fixed for Oct 3 and polling on Oct 11. The seat fell vacant following the death of Barisan Nasional incumbent Azman Mohammad Noor on Sept 4.

On the MCA crisis, Dr Mahathir said it could be resolved if the party leaders placed the interest of the party above themselves.

"A leader will not do anything to destroy the party. If you know that you are no longer qualified, for whatever reason, you stop. Don't cling on (to the post)," he said. He said leaders should realise that they owed their status to the party.

The MCA crisis escalated following the sacking of deputy president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek for his sex scandal in 2007 which was said to have tarnished the party's image. — Bernama