

THE STAR

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# Character is vital, says Dr M

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## Ex-PM: Those who want Isa as candidate are repeating mistakes

**BANTING:** Those who want Teluk Kemang Umno division head Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad as the Barisan Nasional candidate for the Bagan Pinang state by-election are repeating old mistakes, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said it seemed Umno had not learnt much from the "earlier blistering mistakes", and pointed to the recent Permatang Pasir by-election where the Barisan candidate had been disbarred.

"If we placed a candidate of such character, then we will lose. Character of a candidate is important," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that Barisan could win Bagan Pinang

but it depends on the quality of the candidate.

On Wednesday, Teluk Kemang Umno Youth head Mohd Faizal Ramli defended the delegates' decision to nominate Isa as the candidate although disciplinary action had been taken against him for money politics.

Isa was suspended for three years from June 24, 2005, for his involvement in money politics during the 2004 party election.

Faizal had claimed that the division had conducted a survey and found that the constituents, including the non-Malays, accepted Isa.

Faizal said people did not see Isa's record as a liability to Umno and the Barisan.