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# Have faith in candidates chosen by Najib, says Dr M

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**JUDGMENT CALL:** 'The important thing is to ensure Barisan triumphs'

**AISYAH SULAIMAN**  
PUTRAJAYA  
aisyahs@nst.com.my

**V**OTERS must have faith in the candidates picked by Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Najib Razak and vote for the coalition.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Najib had taken into consideration the people's needs and opinions when choosing his candidates.

"We have to accept the decision made by the prime minister on

this. He has made a judgment call as to who should be fielded and our responsibility is to support him."

Speaking at the *Bicara Bersama Negarawan* programme here yesterday, Dr Mahathir stressed that the crucial thing was to ensure that BN would triumph.

He said several close confidants of opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had turned their backs on him, which was a sign that the Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader was unfit to lead the country.

Dr Mahathir said Professor Datuk

Dr Sidek Baba, who was close to Anwar, had done his research and distanced himself from the former Permatang Pauh member of parliament.

"Academicians are scrupulous about their research. It took Dr Sidek a while to understand why Anwar is unpopular, but eventually he found out that the accusations were true and that Anwar is not who he painted himself to be.

"The same can be said of Dr Chandra Muzaffar, who also made the difficult choice of turning against Anwar after realising who

the man really is."

Dr Mahathir admitted that he, too, was hesitant to believe the stories about Anwar in the past but changed his mind after assessing the reports.

On Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's statement that he would not retire from politics just yet, Dr Mahathir said: "He once said he would retire when I did. Obviously, he is not a man of his word.

"Trusting him with a leadership post will spell disaster for the country."