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PRIME NEWS

Priority now on winning hearts and minds

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FOCUS: Question of who will be Kedah MB will be up to Najib, says Dr M

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THE priority of Kedah Umno leaders is to win the hearts and minds of the people and to wrest back the state from Pas in the next general election, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir said there was no issue of the leaders deliberating on who should be menteri besar if Barisan Nasional captured the state.

"They (Kedah Umno leaders) have agreed that what is important now is to win first and let Umno president (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) decide on who is the rightful candidate for the post later."

Dr Mahathir stressed that there was no point in debating over the post if Umno and BN failed to win back the state.

"This is a common understanding which they have agreed upon

because if BN and Umno fail to win Kedah, then nobody from the coalition will become the menteri besar," he said at a press conference after attending a gathering with 5,000 people from the Kulim-Bandar Baharu parliamentary constituency, here, yesterday.

Present were his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Kedah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah.

On speculation that his son Datuk Mukhriz was also being tipped as one of the potential candidates for the post, Dr Mahathir replied that it was not as important, as the priority was to ensure BN wins back the state.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that the support for BN in Kedah had improved significantly as compared to the 2008 general election as the

people have realised that the Pas government had failed to bring any development to the state.

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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad meeting Rosli Mohd Tahir after attending a gathering with 5,000 people from the Kulim-Bandar Baharu parliamentary constituency yesterday. Behind Rosli is Kulim district's Tokoh Maal Hijrah 1433, Tan Khim Pheng. Pic by Mohd Kamil Rahim

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Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir urged the voters to think wisely before casting their votes in the next general election to avoid

repeating the mistake made in the 2008 general election.

"People said let us change the government but that is not always the better solution as we have seen how the Kedahans have lost out in terms of development since Pas took over the state five years ago."