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Hisham flays Dr M's flip-flop stands

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KUALA LUMPUR: What is Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's stand on the government and the opposition?

This was the query posed by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein.

He was commenting on the developments surrounding the upcoming Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar parliamentary by-elections.

"Two days ago, he said Barisan

Nasional would lose. Yesterday, he said the opposition would lose.

"I don't understand what exactly is his stand," Hishammuddin said at the parliament lobby yesterday.

He said what was important right now was ensuring a Barisan Nasional victory in the two by-elections.

He said Umno's polls machinery must ensure that candidates chosen for the upcoming by-elections were

accepted by the locals.

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir, in a speech in Shah Alam, had called on the opposition to work together to defeat BN in the two seats, which fell vacant following the deaths of its two members of parliament in a helicopter crash in Sarawak earlier this month.

However, yesterday in Alor Star, Dr Mahathir said the opposition

would never be able to win any elections, including the two by-elections, due to the lack of unity in their coalition.

Dr Mahathir's comments came after the publication of a letter by his former deputy and ex-opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who had urged opposition members to be cautious when dealing with the former premier.