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**'Ready to face Dr M'**  
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**BALIK PULAU:** Barisan Nasional (BN) is ready to face candidates from the opposition pact in the Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections on June 18.

BN Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said the coalition was focused on retaining the two seats and the wing had pledged to give its all to BN in the polls.

"The BN election machinery is ready to reach out to the electorate.

"We are not bothered with the ongoing dispute in the opposition pact (Pakatan Harapan has yet to decide which party will contest).

"Our focus is on preparations to ensure BN retains the two seats," he said when asked to comment on the role of the wing in the by-elections.

He said the wing's election machinery would canvass votes from young voters.

Khairy, who is also youth and sports minister, said BN was unfazed and ready to face challengers, including heavyweights like former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We are not worried. They (the opposition) can field Dr Mahathir.

"BN is ready to face them all," he said in reply to a question on the possibility of Dr Mahathir being fielded by the opposition.

The polling date for the Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar by-elections is on June 18, early voting on June 14, while nomination will be on June 5.

The seats fell vacant after Kuala Kangsar member of parliament Datuk Wan Mohammad Khairil Anuar Wan Ahmad and three-time Sungai Besar MP Datuk Noriah Kasnon were killed in a helicopter crash in Sebuyau, Sarawak, on May 5.