

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	21 JUNE 2016

# Rahman: Dr M should retire from politics quietly

NST- 21/6/2016

**PUTRAJAYA:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should just retire from politics quietly and not subject himself to further humiliation, said Barisan Nasional Strategic Communications Director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

Urging the former prime minister to accept the results of last Saturday's twin by-elections in Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar, Rahman said BN's landslide victories in the two by-elections clearly showed that Dr Mahathir had been totally rejected.

"Dr Mahathir has been totally rejected... not just by the people, but now by opposition supporters, who

he had shamelessly embraced to topple a democratically elected government.

"In doing so, he betrayed those in BN who once put their absolute loyalty and trust in him. It is sad to see an old man destroy his own legacy," Rahman said in a statement.

Rahman said Dr Mahathir has remained silent since the BN victories had made the people's rejection of the former prime minister clear.

"He is a master of manipulation and twisting logic, but it

is hard to see how even he could spin these results.

"They were clearly a terminal defeat for him," Rahman said.

The by-election victories, he added, proved again that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was more than capable of leading BN into the next general election.

Rahman said the results also proved that Dr Mahathir's claim that BN would lose the next general elections under Najib "to be another absolute lie".

"Dr Mahathir's anti-Najib cam-

paign has failed miserably, and the opposition is split, incoherent and completely unfit for government.

"The people trust BN, under Najib's leadership, to deliver economic development and security," said Rahman, who is also housing, local government and urban wellbeing minister.

In Saturday's by-elections, Datin Mastura Mohd Yazid polled 12,653 votes to retain the Kuala Kangsar seat for BN with a 6,969-vote majority, beating Pas candidate Dr Najihatussalehah Ahmad (5,684 votes), Parti Amanah Rakyat (PAN) candidate Dr Ahmad Termizi Ramli (4,883) and independent candidate

Izat Bukhary Ismail Bukhary (54).

Mastura is the widow of the previous Kuala Kangsar MP, Datuk Wan Mohammad Khairil Anuar Wan Ahmad, who died in a helicopter crash in Sarawak on May 5. Tan Sri Noriah Kasnon, who was the MP for Sungai Besar, was also killed in the accident, which necessitated the by-election in Sungai Besar.

That by-election was won by Sungai Panjang state assemblyman Budiman Mohd Zohdi, who garnered 16,800 votes to record a 9,191-vote majority. He beat PAN's Azhar Abdul Shukur, who obtained 7,609 votes and Pas's Dr Abdul Rani Osman, who got 6,902 votes.



**Datuk Abdul  
Rahman  
Dahlan**