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'Dr M resorting to cheap shots'

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's accusation that Barisan Nasional had won the recent by-elections by practising "open corruption" was nothing but a cheap shot, BN strategic communications director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan said.

He said it also implied that voters in Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar did not have minds of their own.

"It is very sad to hear someone of his stature disputing a legitimate result of an election," he said after presenting packets of *bubur lambuk* to the staff of the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry here yesterday.

Rahman said Dr Mahathir's alle-

gation was also "off target and a ridiculous excuse for losing the election".

He said the electorate in both constituencies had chosen BN because the party could provide holistic solutions to issues faced by the nation.

"I believe the people voted BN for the sake of their children's future and for the security of this nation," he said, adding voters went into the election without having a myopic view of things or focusing on a single issue.

"The people have listened to what he (Dr Mahathir) had to say and they decided not to believe him. It is as simple as that.

"Dr Mahathir did what he did and

I think he just has to accept that the people have spoken against what he preached in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar," he said, reiterating that the former prime minister should retire from politics and leave matters to current leaders in the government and opposition to handle.

It was reported that Dr Mahathir had written in his blog saying that the extraordinary BN wins in both seats were clearly the result of cash and goods being handed out to voters.

He added those thumping their chests and asking him to state his stand following BN's victory should be ashamed of themselves as the victories were a result of "open corruption".