

# 'DR M MY INSPIRATION'

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He's 94, so nothing is impossible, says PH candidate Karmaine, 66

## PONTIAN

**P**AKATAN Harapan's candidate for the Tanjung Piai by-election, Karmaine Sardini, 66, named Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as his source of inspiration to continue serving the people, despite being ridiculed by the opposition for his age.

Karmaine, who is Tanjung Piai Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia division chief, said the taunts fuelled his desire to work harder and win voters' hearts.

He was announced as PH's candidate by Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Monday.

"In politics, age is not a factor. In other parts of the world, leaders are not that young anyway.

"In fact, it (my age) only pushed me to work harder. Age is irrelevant and it will not dampen my fighting spirit because my boss (Dr Mahathir) is 94 years old, so nothing is impossible... I can do it," he told Bernama.

Johor Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Hasni Mohammad, in his speech at the launch of BN's



*Pakatan Harapan candidate for the Tanjung Piai by-election Karmaine Sardini says age is not a factor in politics.*

PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

by-election committee on Monday, hoped there would be no more by-elections after this.

"I believe their (PH's) candidate is 66 years old and next year, he will be 67. I hope there will be no more by-elections after this," said Hasni, who is also Johor Umno chairman, at the event, which was officiated by BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Despite the jibe at his age by "old friends", Karmaine said he

saw it as a challenge to prove his worth and carry the party's spirit.

"My age is being questioned by a friend (Hasni). To me, this is a challenge.

"Hasni was my former division chief in Umno. He brought up the age factor to raise doubts about someone's ability to carry out his duties.

"I will prove that I can still do it, *Insyallah.*"

Karmaine is a certified imam

and serves the congregation at Masjid Al-Muttaqin in Taman Sutera, near Perling, Johor.

On claims that he had a fake diploma, Karmaine said he received his Advanced Diploma in Architecture in the 1980s when Universiti Teknologi Mara was known as Institut Teknologi Mara.

The qualification, equivalent to a degree today, allowed him to become an architect under City Hall shortly after graduation.