

Mahathir And Abdullah's Show Of Support For BN Candidates
Bernama
20 April, 2013

KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- Former prime ministers Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were among scores of Umno veterans who "turun padang" (went to the ground) to lend support to Barisan Nasional (BN) candidates on nomination day.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali travelled to Kedah to give support to their son, Datuk Mukhriz who will be contesting the Ayer Hitam state seat for the first time.

In the last general election in 2008, Mukhriz contested the Jerlun parliamentary seat where he defeated Idris Ahmad from PAS with a 2,205-vote majority.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah, clad in BN uniform, were around since early morning to accompany Mukhriz to Sekolah Menengah Sains Kubang Pasu, the nomination centre.

Meanwhile, Abdullah was in Penang to accompany Umno Youth information chief Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican who will be contesting the Kepala Batas parliamentary seat, previously held by Abdullah for eight terms.

Abdullah, who wore a blue baju Melayu, led the procession that accompanied Reezal, his political secretary when he was prime minister, to the Kepala Batas Industrial Training Institute, the nomination centre for the constituency.

Abdullah was also the proposer for Reezal's candidacy while former Penang state assembly speaker Datuk Seri Yahaya Hamid was the seconder.

In PERAK, former Wanita Umno chief Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, who is also the incumbent for the Kuala Kangsar parliamentary seat for seven terms, accompanied BN candidate Datuk Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar Wan Ahmad to the District and Land Office operations room, the nomination centre, this morning.

Wan Mohammad Khair-il Anuar is facing a three-cornered contest against former Wanita Umno deputy chief Datuk Kamilia Ibrahim, who has been sacked by Umno for contesting the seat as an independent, and Khalil Idham Lim Abdullah from PAS

In NEGERI SEMBILAN, Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and his wife Datin Seri Masnah Rais accompanied BN candidate for the Jelevu parliamentary seat, Zainuddin Ismail, to the Kuala Klawang main hall.

Rais contested the seat in the 1974 general election and the Pertang state in 1978 before recontesting the Jelevu seat in 1982. He failed to defend the seat in 1990 and 1995 when standing as a Semangat 46 candidate.

Since 1999, he contested the Jelevu seat on a BN ticket and won.

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