

Fix Kelantan before stepping foot in Putrajaya, Dr M tells PAS
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PUTRAJAYA, April 28 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad came to the defence of the Barisan Nasional's (BN) Putrajaya stronghold, telling PAS and its candidate Datuk Husam Musa last night to fix Kelantan's problems before focusing on the country's administrative capital.

In a rally called 'Pertahankan Putrajaya' (Defend Putrajaya), BN's longest-serving prime minister said the Islamist party led by spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat had failed in governing Kelantan, and should not be trusted to rule Malaysia after the May 5 general elections.

"What are the contributions of Husam, Nik Aziz, PAS towards Putrajaya? ... Try to rule Kelantan nicely first, then you can think about ruling this country," he told hundreds of the crowd mostly made of party workers and members in Precinct 9 here.

His visit came a day after the long-serving Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Aziz drew thousands at a night ceramah near the Palace of Justice building complex.

Dr Mahathir was welcomed earlier with loud cheers and the "Inilah Barisan Kita" song. Together with his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, they were both seen wearing blue BN uniforms.

The veteran politician was in his element last night, lobbing witty remark after witty remark in the city he helped found, and the crowd laughed every time.

Referring to Husam's challenge to debate him, Dr Mahathir mocked the younger politician who he claimed was more adept in making noise rather than debating an argument.

"Who is Husam anyway? If compared to my age, he is but a child. Go debate with someone your own age, there is no need to challenge others," he said.

The former Kubang Pasu MP also claimed that Husam was sent to contest Putrajaya because PAS and Pakatan Rakyat (PR) were reluctant after hearing rumours that he would contest the seat.

Husam, who is leaving the safety of his PAS-run Kelantan for a federal seat, had previously claimed the opposite: that Dr Mahathir would be fielded as BN was concerned with his unprecedented popularity here.

Most of the rally's programme focused on attacking Husam's credibility. Earlier, a video was played listing the alleged failures of Husam in his post as a Kelantan state executive councillor.

Booklets have also been distributed among Putrajaya voters in recent days by certain parties, accusing the PAS vice-president and his cronies of corruption and shady deals.

While introducing Dr Mahathir last night, BN's incumbent MP for Putrajaya Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor lashed out at PAS supporters for allegedly bringing gangster culture to the city.

"They also held a rally, but for their rally they imported people," said Tengku Adnan, referring to the rally attended by Nik Aziz in Precinct 3 last night.

The mainly civil service electorate, their families and residents from neighbouring areas filled an entire car park space on Friday, a crowd more commonly seen during carnivals and events held by the government.

Dr Mahathir will continue his stumping for BN in Pasir Mas this morning, where he will speak in support of independent candidate and Malay supremacy group Perkasa chief Datuk Ibrahim Ali, who will face a straight fight against PAS' Nik Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz.

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