

Dr M predicts BN victory in Kedah
New Straits Times
21 April 2013

GOOD START: Team comprises a mix of professionals, academics

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident Kedah Barisan Nasional will emerge victorious in the coming general election, judging from the large turnout of supporters at all 15 nomination centres yesterday.

"They comprised the young and old and they were enthusiastic. This a good sign," he said.

The former prime minister and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, were in Jerlun to lend support to BN candidates, including their son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, who is contesting the Ayer Hitam state seat.

About 500 BN members and supporters turned up at the nomination centre at SM Sains Kubang Pasu in Koding near here. An equal number of Pakatan Rakyat supporters were present.

Mukhriz was the former deputy international trade and industry minister and Jerlun member of parliament. He is facing Abd Ghani Ahmad of Pas in a straight fight.

A record number of 23 independents are contesting in five parliamentary and 18 state seats in Kedah. A total of 137 candidates are contesting in 15 parliamentary seats and 36 state seats.

There would be multi-cornered fights in five parliamentary seats and 17 state seats, with the Sidam state constituency registering the highest number with six candidates.

One aspiring candidate, kuih seller Mohd Faisal Abdul Aziz, 45, had nomination papers rejected after it was found his proposer, a former policeman, was not in the electoral roll for the Kulim state seat.

Kedah BN's "Transformation Team" comprised a mix of professionals and academics.

Umno stalwart Datuk Othman Abdul will face Pas deputy president Mohamad Sabu in a straight fight in Pendang.

In Kulim-Bandar Baharu, PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifudin Nasution Ismail will take on Kulim-Bandar Baharu Umno chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir.

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/dr-m-predicts-bn-victory-in-kedah-1.260570>