

Feb 28 – Dr M seeks to rattle Najib's fortress
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Since launching his campaign against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been crisscrossing the nation to tell voters not to back a leader, whom he accuses of plundering the public coffers and corruption.

Come Wednesday, the 93-year-old chairperson of Pakatan Harapan is slated to take this message into the heart of Najib's stronghold, the Pekan parliament seat in Pahang.

When contacted, Pahang Harapan chairperson Fauzi Abdul Rahman confirmed that Mahathir would arrive in the Chini area on the afternoon of Feb 28.

According to him, the former premier has been invited to speak by Chini's Felda settlers.

"At about 3pm, he will be going on a walkabout at the Orang Asli settlement," he said, adding that Mahathir and him would be speaking at a ceramah later that night.

Other Harapan leaders who are scheduled to attend the event are Pahang Amanah chief Hamzah Jaafar, state DAP chairperson Leong Ngah Ngah, Pahang Bersatu leader Wan Mohd Shahrir Wan Abdul Jalil and National Felda Settlers' Children's Association (Anak) chairperson Mazlan Aliman.

Najib had inherited the Pekan seat from his late father and second prime minister Abdul Razak Hussein.

He won the seat unopposed in 1976 following his father's death and has held it since.

In the 1999 general election, held in the aftermath of Mahathir sacking his then deputy Anwar Ibrahim, Najib suffered a scare as he managed to cling on to the seat with a wafer-thin majority of 241 votes.

This would be Mahathir's first visit to Pekan as both the chairperson of Bersatu and Harapan.

Najib has denied abusing public funds for personal gain and blamed the allegations on a Mahathir-led plot to topple him.

The prime minister's supporters claim that the former premier is seeking to engineer the political ascension of his son and Bersatu deputy president Mukhriz.

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