

# Switch has Umno on the hop

Bahan asal dari Arkib  
Negara Malaysia

Jerlun-Langkawi  
Datuk Sanusi Junid  
(Umno) by 1,249 votes  
(4.8%)

Kuala Kedah  
Datuk Senu Abdul  
Rahman (Umno) by  
879 (2.9%)

Ulu Muda  
Hashim Endut (Umno)  
by 1,098 (4.9%)

Baling  
Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad  
(PAS) by 291 (1%)

## Marginal State Seats:

Kuala Nerang: Azizah  
bt L. Taib (Umno) by 627  
(4.9%)

Bayu: Hj. Seroji bin Haj  
Haji Hanon (Umno) 368  
(2.7%)

Kupang: Mohd Ramli  
b. Abdullah (PAS) 407  
(2.6%)

ALOR STAR, Thurs —  
Kedah PAS has switched  
strategy at the last minute  
in a bold bid to win more  
parliamentary and state  
seats. And the word has  
gone to a slightly nervous  
Umno to buck up.

The sudden move by  
established PAS leaders  
out of their strongholds and  
into the marginal seats has  
caught Umno by surprise.

Latest party reports say  
that some Barisan-held  
seats — such as the Jerlun-  
Langkawi, Kuala Kedah  
and Ulu Muda parliamen-  
tary seats, and the Bayu  
state seat — may be shaky.  
And after filing his papers  
for the Kubang Pasu parli-  
amentary seat on Wednes-  
day, Prime Minister Datuk  
Seri Dr Mahathir  
Mohamed himself gave  
party workers a pep talk.

PAS is gambling that it is  
strong enough in the seats it  
already holds to field lesser  
known candidates there.  
And it has moved its lead-  
ers to places where Barisan  
newcomers or what they  
think are weaker candi-  
dates are standing.

Umno strategists  
apparently had thought  
that with PAS president  
Datuk Haji Asri Muda  
leaving Kedah for Kelan-  
tan, the party would have  
to use its state leaders if it  
wanted to hold on to its  
present seats.

Datuk Abu Bakar Umar,  
the PAS state commis-  
sioner, has thus handed the  
Jerlun state seat, which the  
party thinks is a safe PAS  
state seat, to newcomer  
Hashim Naim Osman. His

By P.K. KATHARASON and P.K. POH

deputy, Datuk Sudin  
Wahab has similarly hand-  
ed Langgar Limbong to  
another newcomer, Said  
Yassin.

Both of them are moving  
to Umno-held seats —  
Datuk Abu Bakar to Alor  
Merah and Datuk Sudin to  
Pokok Sena. PAS lost the  
Alor Merah seat by 809  
votes (or a majority of six  
per cent of the votes cast)  
in the 1978 general elec-  
tion. Pokok Sena, which  
PAS won in the 1974 elec-  
tion, went to Umno in 1978  
when the PAS candidate's  
papers were rejected.

Umno has moved State  
ExCo member Datuk Abu  
Bakar Rautin out of Alor  
Merah, so Datuk Abu  
Bakar Umar faces a new-  
comer, Datuk Haji Khalid  
Abdullah, 48, and the  
DAP's Ong Aun Boon.  
Datuk Sudin also faces a  
newcomer, Abdul Hamid  
Tahar.

Datuk Sudin will also  
stand for the Padang Terap  
parliamentary seat where  
PAS has been holding  
numerous ceramahs among  
the more isolated villages in  
the last few months.

He faces former Mentri  
Besar Tan Syed Ahmad  
Shahabuddin, who PAS  
calculates can be beaten  
because he has been out of  
the public eye for some  
time. In 1978, Tan Sri  
Ahmad beat Datuk Asri by  
2,747 votes for a majority  
of 10 per cent.

PAS state elections  
chairman Ustaz Fadzil Nor,

on the other hand, returns  
to the Bukit Raya state seat  
which he lost by only 69  
votes in a 1980 by-election.  
Once again, he faces  
Umno's Safirol Hashim.  
Ustaz Fadzil will also con-  
test the Ulu Muda parli-  
amentary seat which  
Umno won by 1,098 votes,  
a majority of 4.9 per cent,  
in 1978.

In 1978, Ustaz Fadzil  
contested the Kuala Kedah  
parliamentary seat (where  
he lost by 879 votes) and  
Alor Merah state seat  
(which he lost by 809  
votes).

The Baling parliament  
seat is also believed to be  
safe to PAS's Ustaz  
Nakhaie Haji Ahmad, who  
is seeking a second term.  
PAS, however, only won  
this seat by 291 votes, a  
majority of one per cent,  
hence Ustaz Nakhaie was  
not moved.

For the Sik state seat,  
PAS has replaced incum-  
bent Haji Hamzah Abdul  
Latif with Harun Jusoh and  
for Sala, incumbent Yahya  
Junit, who was an Assemb-  
lyman for two terms, is  
being replaced by Ismail  
Ahmad.

Only the PAS Assembly-  
men for Kupang,  
Mohamed Ramli Abdullah,  
and for Anak Bukit,  
Wahab Sulaiman, are being  
retained in their old seats.  
Kupang went to PAS by  
407 votes (a 2.6 per cent  
majority) and Anak Bukit  
by 1,174 votes (8.1 per  
cent).

PAS plans for Kedah  
have not failed to take into  
account the voter-  
attraction the Prime Minis-  
ter himself will have out-  
side his own constituency.

To counter this, it hopes  
to tie him down in Kubang  
Pasu where he won by  
8,245 votes (28.4 per cent)  
in 1978. PAS deputy presi-  
dent Haji Yusof Rawa, a  
former ambassador to Iran,  
will be up against Datuk  
Seri Dr Mahathir in  
Kubang Pasu.

Heis said to have been  
reluctant to take on the  
Prime Minister but it is  
believed Datuk Asri and  
other party leaders said  
that his campaign could  
curtail Datuk Seri Dr  
Mahathir's plans for help-  
ing out the Barisan cam-  
paign in the rest of Kedah  
and in Kelantan and Treng-  
ganu, where PAS hopes to  
do well.

With this plan —  
apparently the secret  
strategy that PAS was  
speaking about a few weeks  
ago — PAS hopes to retain  
its six state seats and win a  
few more in the 26-member  
State Assembly, perhaps  
the seven or eight more it  
needs to form a new the  
state government.

To this end, the PAS  
manifesto, released on the  
eve of nomination day,  
stresses it can provide a  
"clean and effective" admi-  
nistration and although it  
calls for land reforms, it  
plays down religion con-  
siderably.