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REPEAT aae

Umno - Kelantan (News Analysis)

By Saadi Mat Atar

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Kelantan UMNO enters a new era with the recent appointment of Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as its liaison chief.

The move ended the so-called power struggle among some state leaders for the post and at the same time strengthened members' determination to revive the state party, which failed to win a single seat in the last general election.

Kelantan UMNO can be considered +a wash out+ after the election defeat and political observers say the party needs a strong and undisputed leader in order to see radical changes.

The observers were unanimous that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was the right choice as the Prime Minister commands the respect of all members.

With Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as its leader, Kelantan UMNO will also receive direct attention from the national body.-- more

♥14/02/14-22MST

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Umno - Kelantan 2 Kota Baharu (News Analysis)

The move was not a precedent. Tunku Abdul Rahman led Kelantan UMNO in 1963 when he was the Prime Minister while Tun Abdul Razak took over as liaison chief from Tan Sri Nik Kamil in 1967.

However, the situation was more serious this time following the election defeat, caused by internal and external problems.

Observers say the reorganisation of Kelantan UMNO needs careful planning and should involve every level of the party.

The party needs an experienced leader of high calibre in order to face the challenges from PAS, which is now the ruling party in Kelantan. -- more

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Umno - Kelantan 3 Kota Baharu (News Analysis)

Political observers say Umno will have an uphill task in convincing the people of Kelantan that what is being done by the PAS Government is in fact the continuation of what has been implemented by UMNO in stages.

Some politicians say Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's leadership is necessary to find a solution to the so-called interference by the Istana in politics.

An important aspect in the move is to avoid a split between the +old guards+ and the new generation in Kelantan UMNO so that they could work together in facing the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (Ummah).

Many UMNO divisions in the state have yet to recover from the election defeat but some leaders feel that with the appointment of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as their chief, things will be different in the future.

+It's time for the state UMNO to go to the people again after taking a rest for almost three months,+ an UMNO leader said.

+I'm confident UMNO will be able to regain the state if we work hard towards it,+ said Senator Hassan Haron, a member of the UMNO Supreme Council.

Some members feel that old leaders should make way for the younger generation in order to bring changes that can strengthen the party and regain the confidence of the people.

Many members are also happy with the appointment of Senator Annuar Musa as the deputy liaison chief, saying that this can pave the way for more young leaders in Kelantan UMNO.--Bernama

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