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Mahathir-Umno

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SHAH ALAM, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he believes more assemblymen in Kelantan will join Umno if the State Legislative Assembly had not introduced laws prohibiting them from switching parties.

He said democracy in Kelantan could be said to have been curtailed with the introduction of the +anti-hop+ law.

+I believe many of the assemblymen want to join Umno but Kelantan has made laws which curtail their freedom to do so,+ he told reporters after launching the Farmers', Livestock Breeders' and Fishermen's Day celebrations at the Bukit Cahaya Seri Alam Agricultural Park here.

He was commenting on the move by the MP for Machang, Encik Ahmad Shukri Haji Hassan, and 400 of his supporters who left Parti Semangat 46 to join Umno yesterday.

On April 25 this year, the Kelantan State Legislative Assembly passed amendments to the State Constitution to disqualify a state assemblyman who is sacked from or quits the party on whose ticket he won the seat. -- more

♥20/08/18-17MST

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Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

The amendments were passed with retrospective effect to Nov 18 last year, the date the assemblymen were sworn in.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President, said the federal government did not legislate similar laws, and elected representatives had the freedom to switch parties.

He welcomed the entry of the Semangat 46 members into Umno and expressed the hope that other Semangat 46 supporters would follow in their footsteps.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Chafar Baba said today that the move by Encik Ahmad Shukri and his supporters had boosted Barisan Nasional's (BN) chances of winning the Sungai Pinang and Limbongan state by-elections in Kelantan on Saturday.

Encik Chafar, who is Umno Deputy President, was speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on technical cooperation between Japanese computer control equipment producer Yokogawa Electric Corporation and Universiti Malaya (UM) here. -- more

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CNS1389

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Mahathir-Umno 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

In the Sungai Pinang constituency, former assemblyman Haji Nordin Salleh, will contest the seat on a BN ticket against Semangat 46's Haji Mahmud Haji Yaakuib and independent candidates Haji Wan Mohamad Wan Abdullah and Haji Wan Abdul Rahman Wan Hassan.

In Limbongan, Wan Mohd Najib Wan Mohamad is re-contesting the seat, also under the BN banner, against Haji Samat Mamat of Semangat 46 and independent candidates Mat Hassan Jusoh and Afandi Hassan.

Encik Chafar also said he expected more assemblymen in Kelantan to join Umno if there were no +anti-hop+ laws.

The introduction of such laws showed that Semangat 46 and PAS were afraid that their assemblymen would join Umno, he added. -- Bernama

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