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KELANTAN UMNO DEVISING NEW STRATEGY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 23 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Umno has devised a new strategy in its efforts to wrest control of the state from PAS.

Its deputy liaison chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said today he recently met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to brief him on the political developments, and was advised on the approach to take in dealing with the situation.

Annuar did not elaborate but said that the present crisis between PAS and Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) was their own internal problem, which the Kelantan Umno had no intention of exploiting.

The crisis between PAS and S46 which shared power in ruling the state through the Angkatan Perpaduan Umman (APU) resulted in a total break in relations in July 14 when Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat relieved the four S46 Exco members of their portfolios.

Annuar reminded Umno members in Kelantan that they must not take for granted that the present development would make it easy for the party to recapture the state.

" What is important for the present is for every Umno member to work hard, improve the party discipline and show a lot of patience in our moves towards achieving the party's objective," he told a news conference after opening the National Rubber Smallholders Cooperative Berhad annual meeting here.

On the proposed cooperation between Umno and S46, Annuar said the two parties shared common views on certain issues and cooperation could be established in the water supply privatisation project, for instance, and in other areas where PAS had failed to honour its election pledges. -- BERNAMA

AKT AR JK