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Election

KELANTAN UMNO MAKES EARLY PREPARATION FOR GENERAL ELECTION

IPOH, March 16 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno leaders will attend a three-day course in Langkawi from tomorrow to plan strategies for the next general election.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Kelantan Umno liaison chairman, was expected to be present, the deputy chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said here today.

All division heads and also Umno Youth and Wanita heads from the divisions would attend the course considered an important one in view of the party's growing strength in the state, he added.

Annuar, who is Rural Development Minister, was speaking at a Hari Raya get-together between Kelantan and Perak Umno leaders here. Perak Menteri Besar Tan Ramli Ngah Talib was also present.

Annuar said although Umno failed to recapture opposition-ruled Kelantan in the general election last year, the total votes it garnered surpassed that it received in the 1990 general election.

Umno's popularity votes in Kelantan increased from 23 percent in the 1990 election to 43 percent last year.

"We hope in the next general election, the figure will increase to more than 67 percent," he added.

Annuar also hoped that campaigning for the Umno party elections would be free from parochial sentiments and cliques.

Asked if he would contest for the post of Umno Youth chief, he said: "Let's wait for the situation in Pemuda to settle before I make a decision." -- BERNAMA

HK ARA LDB