

27 MAR 1996

MP - Menteri Besar

PICK A CANDIDATE WHO WILL NOT DESTABILISE KEDAH UMNO- MPs

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Nine Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament from Kedah, eight of whom are Umno Division heads in the state, want Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir to make changes which will not affect Umno's stability in the state if he intends to change the present Menteri Besar.

The Member of Parliament for Kuala Kedah, Datuk Zakaria Said, who acted as the MPs' spokesman said today they acknowledged that the appointment of the Kedah Menteri Besar was the sole right of Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister, Umno President and BN Chairman.

"Nevertheless if the Right Honourable Prime Minister/Umno President /BN Chairman proposed to make changes let not such changes affect Umno's political stability in Kedah," he told a news conference at Parliament House here.

Zakaria, who is also Deputy Chairman of the Kedah Umno Liaison Committee and head of the Kuala Kedah Umno Division, said all nine MPs discussed among themselves the issue of Kedah Menteri Besar this morning.

Apart from him, the others who attended the meeting were Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir (Kulim/Bandar Baru), Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar (Padang Terap), Datuk Othman Abdul (Pendang), Datuk Hanafi Ramli (Jerlun), Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin (Yan), Datuk Abu Bakar Taib (Langkawi), Ibrahim Mustaffa (Sungai Petani) and Wan Hanafiah Mat Saman (Pokok Sena).

All but Wan Hanafiah, are Umno Division heads in their respective Parliamentary constituencies. Wan Hanafiah is the Vice-head of the Pokok Sena Umno Division.

Kedah MPs who did not attend the meeting were Dr Mahathir (Kubang Pasu), Tun Daim Zainuddin (Merbok), Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Osman (Sik) and Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman (Baling).

Dr Mahathir is on an official visit to New Zealand, Dr Abdul Hamid was away in KL to attend the Cabinet meeting, Raja Ariffin had official duties to attend to and Daim could not be contacted as the meeting was an impromptu affair.

Two other Members of Parliament from Kedah are Chor Chee Heung (Alor Setar) and Lim Lay Hoon (Padang Serai). Both are from the MCA.

Zakaria said the meeting also unanimously reiterated its loyalty to Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister, Umno President and BN Chairman, which was first made on Sept 16 last year.

The Sept 16 meeting was attended by Dr Mahathir, all senators, Members of Parliament and state assemblymen from Kedah, when the issue of the Kedah Menteri Besar was then hotly talked about.

Zakaria, said today's meeting also expressed unanimous support for Dr Mahathir in deciding on the question of Kedah Menteri Besar.

"On the question of Kedah Menteri Besar, we give the full mandate to the Prime Minister, Umno President and BN Chairman to make a decision," he said.

Asked who they thought was the candidate who would not jeopardise Kedah politics, Zakaria said Dr Mahathir in his wisdom would know who was the most eligible.

Asked if they would support former Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid as Menteri Besar of Kedah if he was the Prime Minister's choice, Dr Mahathir said: "Anyone we'll support. We believe that the leadership is very wise."

Zakaria said no one pressured them into holding the meeting but was on thier own realisation to correct a situation which had been incorrect earlier. -- BERNAMA

AH AAM