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Annuar takes responsibility for BN's defeat in Pulai Chondong

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Kelantan Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said he took full responsibility for the coalition's performance in Monday's Pulai Chondong State by-election when its candidate Yusoff Hamzah lost by 118 votes to Pas' Zulkifli Mamat.

He said Kelantan Umno State liaison committee had no intention of finding scapegoats but instead felt that positive and immediate steps should be taken to overcome all weaknesses faced by the Barisan Nasional in Kelantan.

"We must overcome all our weaknesses and it is our joint responsibility to take immediate corrective measures to wrest control from the Pas State Government in the general election," he said.

Annuar who is Rural Development Minister and Kelantan Umno deputy liaison chief said the State Liaison Committee believed that party members had to be more disciplined, loyal and committed in their struggle to take control of the State.

Annuar who was the director of operations in the lead up to the by-election said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman Umno president and Kelantan Umno State Liaison Chief, had made it clear that no excuses should be given for the defeat.

"I believe he does not want to hurt the feelings of Umno members in Kelantan.

"But it is my duty to point out that unless we overcome our own weaknesses, we cannot hope to wrest control from Pas.

"The defeat was due to our own weaknesses and it should be considered as a blessing in disguise as it will teach us to be more responsible in our struggle to succeed," he said.

Annuar said Dr Mahathir had agreed that as an immediate measure the State Liaison Committee establish a committee to review Barisan Nasional's election strategies and recommend measures to overcome all weaknesses and problems.

He said the committee would be headed by a former Menteri Besar and would comprise two former State executive councillors, two former assemblymen, two lawyers and an officer who would act as secretary.

He said he did not want to reveal their names as they might be prevented by some members from carrying out a detailed study on the defeat.

He said the committee would be given 45 days to submit a report on all shortcomings and recommend steps to be taken in future elections.

In the by-election Zulkifli polled 4,778 votes while Yusoff obtained 4,660. There were 80 spoilt votes.

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