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DAP-Candidate

LAWYER TO BE DAP'S CANDIDATE IN TELUK INTAN BY-ELECTION

PETALING JAYA, May 3 (Bernama) -- The DAP has picked its Perak treasurer, M.Kulasegaran, as its candidate in the Teluk Intan parliamentary by-election on May 17.

Announcing the candidate at the party's headquarters here today, DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said the DAP was aware that it would be very difficult to win the seat which fell vacant following the death of the Barisan Nasional's Ong Tin Kim last month.

"Of course, every time we fight in an election, we fight to win and Teluk Intan will be no exception," he said. Nomination Day has been fixed for Tuesday.

"But we intend and we are confident that we can put up a great fight, not only for the rights of the voters in Teluk Intan but also for the people in the whole country," he added.

The BN has named Dr Chee See Choke, 49, who is Kampar Gerakan division chairman, as its candidate. Kulasegaran, 39, a lawyer, was the DAP's candidate for the Taman Canning state seat in the 1995 general election.

Lim also said the DAP now faced the prospect of having to fight seven by-elections -- the Kidurong state seat (May 12) and the Kemena state seat (May 24-25), both in Sarawak, the Teluk Intan parliamentary seat (May 17), the Kota Melaka parliamentary seat, in view of the sentences passed by the Melaka High Court on Lim Guan Eng, and the Repah state seat in Negri Sembilan following the death of the BN incumbent.

He said whether the DAP would contest in the parliamentary by-election in Kuala Selangor and the Permatang state by-election as a result of the swapping of the seats between Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Jamaluddin Adnan, had still to be decided.

"There can of course be different views as to whether DAP should contest the by-elections created by the appointment of Abu Hassan as Selangor Menteri Besar," he said.

"The argument against a contest is to give Abu Hassan an opportunity to have a new beginning first, while the argument in favour of a contest is to highlight the need for a clean and honest administration in Selangor and the people's demand for the cleansing of the Augean stables," he said.

Lim said he personally congratulated Abu Hassan on his appointment which was in recognition of his integrity and professional approach.

"However, the very fact that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Moahamd had to ask a senior Cabinet Minister to descend to state politics is a poor reflection on the existing crop of Selangor Umno Exco members and assemblymen, indicating that not one of them is qualified to be elevated to be Selangor Menteri Besar," he said. -- BERNAMA

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