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Residents awaiting a `lift' from Abu Hassan

Annie Freeda Cruetz

KUALA SELANGOR, Tues. - The people of Kuala Selangor are confident there will be more development in their area with Datuk Abu Hassan Omar as Menteri Besar.

They believe Abu Hassan, who was the MP for Kuala Selangor until his resignation last week to contest the Permatang State seat in a by-election, has a "soft spot" for them.

After all, it was his previous parliamentary constituency.

Farmer Irwan Darwis, 38, who lives in Bukit Belimbing, said he was happy that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had picked Abu Hassan as the Menteri Besar-designate.

He said Abu Hassan, the former Domestic Trade Consumer Affairs Minister, was very approachable and eager to help solve their problems.

"He would not face any problem winning the Permatang State seat as he is very popular among the people," said Irwan.

There are 18,517 eligible voters in the Permatang state constituency and 49,504, including 211 postal voters, in the Kuala Selangor parliamentary constituency which will be contested by Datuk Jamaluddin Adnan.

A part-time worker at the Kuala Selangor Umno office, Mohamed Abu Bakar, 68, said Dr Mahathir made the right choice as "Abu Hassan has vast experience in politics and in Umno."

"I am confident he will win the seat with a big majority," he said and expressed hope of more changes in the Kuala Selangor area with Abu Hassan as the Menteri Besar.

Indian Progressive Front deputy branch chairman for Permatang, A. Vijayan, 41, hoped the new Menteri Besar would give some attention to upgrading roads.

He also wants more low- and medium-cost houses to be built in the Kuala Selangor for the benefit of estate workers.

Paul Savarimuthu, who is an MIC member of the Bukit Rotan branch, said MIC would go all out to campaign for Abu Hassan and Jamaluddin.

Businessman Yong Teck Yan, 49, also an MCA member was confident Abu Hassan would spur Selangor to greater heights and industrialise the State by 2005.

Wan Latifah Wan Chik, 37, of Sungei Buloh, hoped Abu Hassan would bring more development projects to the town.

"We in Kuala Selangor want to see rapid development and hope Jamaluddin will be just as approachable as Abu Hassan.

"One can speak to Abu Hassan freely and he is always there for us. We hope Jamaluddin will also be like him," she said.

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