

22 FEB 1998

ANNUAR:CONTEST UNLIKELY IN 10 UMNO DIVISIONS IN K'TAN

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Ten of 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan are unlikely to see contest for divisional chief posts in party elections next month, state Umno liaison deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa said today.

He said that following negotiations to avoid split in the party he did not foresee contest in Bachok, Peringat, Gua Musang, Kuala Krai, Machang, Tanah Merah, Pasir Mas, Tumpat, Pengkalan Chepa and Jeli divisions.

The no-contest arrangement was in line with Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice against contest for divisional leadership in the state to preserve party unity.

Dr Mahathir is also Kelantan Umno liaison chairman.

"So far only four divisions namely Kota Baharu, Kubang Kerian, Rantau Panjang and Pasir Puteh remained problematic. Negotiations are ongoing to avert contest for the divisional leadership in these divisions," Annuar said.

Annuar, who is also Rural Development Minister, told reporters this after meeting mukim development chairmen and local Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders at the Umno headquarters here.

He said he had also asked candidates not accepting nominations to contest for divisional posts to give such undertaking but formally filling up forms rejecting the nominations.

Annuar, who is also the Kelantan BN chairman, said the coalition would kick off a series of road-shows state-wide beginning April 1 to consolidate the BN election machinery and unity among component parties.-- BERNAMA

MNR rn