

16 FEB 1998

Annuar-Umno

ANNUAR MUSA TO NEGOTIATE TO AVOID CONTESTS

JERTEH, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno Deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa said he was prepared to negotiate to ensure that all Umno division posts in the state are not contested.

Annuar who is Rural Development Minister said the negotiation process would go on until the last minute because Kelantan Umno could not afford disunity in the divisions.

"I have not given up hope and will continue negotiating (to avoid contests)...the coming general election is vital for Kelantan, forget personal interest," Annuar told reporters after presenting equipment to the Besut District Economic Enhancement Programme here, yesterday.

He was commenting on the Umno Supreme Council's decision to allow members nationwide to contest all division posts except in Gua Musang and Peringat divisions in Kelantan.

Annuar who is also Peringat Division head thanked the Supreme Council for the decision but he emphasised that it would be regrettable if the members refused to heed the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed who is Umno President and also Kelantan Umno Chief.

Most importantly, he said, was for all division heads in Kelantan to be allowed to continue leading their divisions.

"Tengku Razaleigh and I (not challenged as division heads) will contact other friends especially those wishing to contest to respect the advice of the Prime Minister," he said.

Annuar emphasised that the rationale behind the no contest advice was to maintain party solidarity which was most vital for Kelantan Umno to ensure the party's victory in the next general election.

He expected no contests in six divisions, Jeli, Pasir Mas, Peringat, Gua Musang, Pengkalan Chepa and Rantau Panjang and every effort would be made to avoid contests in the remaining eight divisions. -- BERNAMA

SBJ HAR AAM