

26 NOV 1998

Candidates

KELANTAN BN TO NOMINATE MORE NEW FACES

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Barisan Nasional (BN), which forms the opposition in PAS-ruled Kelantan, will nominate more new faces to stand in the coming general election, state BN chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said today.

These probable candidates would carry with them a heavy responsibility of wresting back power for the BN, said Annuar, who is also Kelantan Umno deputy liaison chief.

The BN lost Kelantan to PAS since 1990 and Annuar said he reckoned that the BN has a 50:50 chance to unseat PAS in the next general election.

"I shall propose their names to (prime minister) Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at an appropriate time," he told reporters here.

Dr Mahathir is BN chairman and Umno president as well as Kelantan Umno liaison committee chief.

Annuar said the proposed move would mean exclusion of Umno division chiefs from being nominated as probable BN candidates in the coming polls.

"We'll not compromise on the criteria for choosing a candidate. We'll put first those with good track records and more importantly those accepted by all communities in Kelantan," he said.

"At the moment the BN has a 50:50 chance to beat PAS and regaining control of Kelantan can be reality if Umno can overcome several internal problems and remains united," he said.

Earlier, Annuar, who is Rural Development Minister, met officers of Risda, the rubber small-holders development authority and Kemas, the community development department.

He said the various agencies under the ministry had collected one million signatures since last year, supporting the government's measures to stimulate economic recovery.

The collection of signatures would be presented to Dr Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 19 when the prime minister is also scheduled to deliver a special message to agencies under the ministry and rural folk.

"At the function the prime minister will also hand over RM200 million in dividends to Felcra settlers," he said.

At the function Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to launch Annuar's book "Tranformasi Kedua Luar Bandar" (the second rural transformation), he added.

-- BERNAMA

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