

27 MAY 1998

By-election

SHAHIDAN TO MEET PM OVER VACANT ARAU PARLIAMENTARY SEAT

KANGAR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim has said that he will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad within a week over the vacant Arau parliamentary seat.

Shahidan, who is the chairman of the Perlis Barisan Nasional, said that he would also meet the Dewan Rakyat Speaker over the matter.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Kamarudin Ahmad, 48, following a stroke on Monday.

"I will meet the Prime Minister and the Dewan Rakyat Speaker within a week," he told Bernama here last night.

Shahidan said that the Election Commission would decide on whether or not a by-election should be held.

According to procedure, the Dewan Rakyat Speaker will inform the Election Commission regarding the death of a Member of Parliament.

"In my personal view, considering the economic situation we are in, a by-election need not be held," he said.

The deputy secretary of the Election Commission, Noh Jaafar, was reported as saying that a by-election should be held because the seat fell vacant just over two years before Parliament should be dissolved.

The period is calculated from the date of the first sitting of the Dewan Rakyat on June 14, 1995 following the general election in April that year.

-- BERNAMA

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