

18 JUL 1999

Sabbaruddin

I'M LEAVING MY CANDIDACY TO DR MAHATHIR - SABBARUDDIN

TEMERLOH, July 18 (Bernama) -- Former Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik said today he was leaving it to Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide whether to re-nominate him as a candidate for the Temerloh parliamentary seat in the general election.

He has been the Temerloh MP since 1982 and his first government post was Deputy Finance Minister.

"The question of whether I'm offering myself (as a candidate) does not arise because I'm leaving it to the party leadership to decide," he told reporters after opening the Temerloh Umno division's special meeting, here.

The meeting was to make preparations for the general election.

The division also set up working committees at parliamentary level headed by Sabbaruddin himself in his capacity as the Member of Parliament and division chief.

At the state constituency level, the committees will be chaired by the incumbent assemblymen -- Datuk Sarit Yusoh (Semantan), Datuk Abdul Malik Ismail (Bera) and Hayani Abdul Rahman (Guai).

Sabbaruddin said the division would ensure Barisan Nasional's victory provide the selected candidates have the people's support.

"The division hopes all the incumbents will be retained. In fact, the youth and wanita movements still want the MP to contest," he said.

In the May 20 Cabinet reshuffle, Sabbaruddin was replaced by Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir as the Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob succeeded him as the Umno secretary-general.

-- BERNAMA

ZY MAI TS