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Tajol

BN UNLIKELY TO REPLACE MOST INCUMBENTS, SAYS TAJOL

LANGKAWI, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali said talk that the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) would not field most of its incumbent elected representatives, especially from Umno, in the coming general election is mere speculation.

He reckoned that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is BN chairman and Umno president, would not simply drop the incumbents so as not to contribute to possible loss of seats in the coming polls.

"Based on experience, I believe the prime minister will not replace Umno or BN candidates just for the sake of replacing them except for very important reasons," said Tajol Rosli, who is also an Umno Supreme Council member.

He told reporters this after inspecting preparations by the Langkawi Umno division election machinery here last night.

Tajol Rosli said that from experience, the prime minister seldom replaced incumbents with new faces to the extent of infuriating some quarters.

+What is important is for us to treat the candidates fielded as Barisan Nasional candidates," he said.

Tajol Rosli said that the Umno Supreme Council had assigned him to inspect the BN and Umno election machinery for the Langkawi, Jerlun and Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituencies in Kedah and Padang Besar, Kangar as well as Arau in Perlis before the end of the month.

The minister also commented on the rioting by supporters of jailed former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the federal capital last weekend.

Tajol Rosli said the disturbances they created would cost Malaysia her image and economic growth as investors and tourists would shy away from a country made to appear as strife-torn.

-- BERNAMA

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