

19 NOV 1999

Candidates-Kedah

DR MAHATHIR AND SANUSI TO DEFEND SEATS

ALOR SETAR, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid will both defend their seats in the country's 10th general election on Nov 29.

Dr Mahathir will defend his Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat while Sanusi the Kuah state seat.

First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin will also defend his Merbok parliamentary seat.

Sanusi, in announcing the Kedah Barisan Nasional (BN) list of candidates here today, said former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar are among the 19 dropped.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, recently mentioned as a possible candidate in the state, was not listed.

Among the new faces named are Universiti Malaya history lecturer Prof Madya Dr Mahadzir Mohamed Khir, former Utusan Melayu journalist Rosnah Majid and Insaniah institute rector Prof Datuk Dr Othman Ishak.

Sanusi said 30 percent of the BN candidates named for parliamentary seats in the state are new faces and 38 percent for state seats.

Mahadzir will contest the Sungai Petani parliamentary seat, Rosnah the Tanjung Dawai state seat and Dr Othman the Jitra state seat in place of Osman Aroff.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman will defend his Sik parliamentary seat and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir his Kulim/Bandar Baharu parliamentary seat.

Three Parliamentary Secretaries will also defend their parliamentary seats -- Datuk Chor Chee Heung (Transport Ministry) Alor Setar, Datuk Abu Bakar Taib (Agriculture Ministry) Langkawi and Datuk Othman Abdul (Prime Minister's Department) Pendang.

All members of the Kedah state executive council have been renominated to contest.

They are Datuk Beh Heng Seong (Gurun), Datuk V Saravanan (Bukit Selambau), Datuk Fong Chok Gin (Sidam), Datuk Hassan Bulat (Padang Matsirat), Abdul Rahman Ariffin (Ayer Hitam), Datuk Ghazali Ibrahim (Pedu), Ahmad Lebai Sudin (Bukit Lada), Abdullah Hasnan Kamaruddin (Anak Bukit), Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain (Kubang Rotan) and Datuk Zainol Mat Isa (Bayu).

National Civics Bureau director general Osman Ismail will replace Dr Affifuddin for the Padang Terap parliamentary seat.

Among the veterans dropped from their parliamentary seats are Datuk Hanafi Ramli (Jerlun), Raja Ariffin Raja Alias (Baling) and Datuk Zakaria Said (Kuala Kedah).

Kedah Umno Youth chief Ismail Tayib has been named to stand in Jerlun, Datuk Bahadur Shah Omar, the former political secretary to Sanusi, in Baling and Alor Setar Umno division deputy chief Dr Fauzi Abdul Hamid in Kuala Kedah.

Sanusi's political secretary Mohamed Rozai Shafian will contest the Sungai Tiang state seat in place of Fatimah Ismail.

Another new face is religious leader Sheikh Nik Ali Nik Mat for the Langgar state seat.

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