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Ghafar-Election

GHAFAR OFFERS NOT TO DEFEND HIS JASIN PARLIAMENTARY SEAT

JASIN, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba has said that he will not offer himself to contest in the coming general election to defend his Jasin parliamentary seat he held since 1982.

Ghafar, 74, said that he had written to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to state his desire not to contest in the coming general election.

In the 1995 general election, Ghafar contested the seat even though he had stated that he wanted to retire as Dr Mahathir wanted him to defend his seat.

Ghafar made the announcement at the launching of the Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery for the Ayer Panas state constituency by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Aby Zahar Isnin, here, last night. The constituency is one of five state constituencies in the Jasin parliamentary constituency.

The function is the first joint appearance by Ghafar and Abu Zahar since Abu Zahar defeated Ghafar in the contest for the post of Jasin Umno division head in 1995.

Ghafar, in his speech, however said that he was leaving it to Dr Mahathir to consider his wish not to contest and would respect his decision.

He said that even if not contesting, he would still make contributions to the BN campaign to defend the seat.

He further stated his undivided support for Umno even though he was defeated by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the contest for the Umno deputy president's post in 1993.

Meanwhile, Abu Zahar expressed regret that some quarters were still attempting to pit him against Ghafar following the divisional election.

-- BERNAMA

MOZ RM